

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SAYS:

'Close to 4K workers to be displaced next fiscal year'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

A large number of workers could again be displaced in the next fiscal year based on estimates given by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. The Department of Homeland Security reduced by one the numerical limit of the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker nonimmigrant visa program.

From 12,999, DHS cut the cap to 12,998 for fiscal year 2017, which starts on Oct. 1.

Chamber secretary Alex Sablan, speaking to their members in last

Tuesday's meeting at the Kanoa Resort's Seaside Hall, said the displaced CW-1 workers would gravely impact the CNMI's economy that has

See WORKERS on Page 4

Foreign fishermen confined to boats catch Hawaiian seafood

By MARTHA MENDOZA and
MARGIE MASON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP)—Hawaii's high-quality seafood is sold with the promise that it's caught by local, hard-working fishermen. But the people who haul in the prized catch are almost all undocumented foreign workers, confined to American boats for years at a time without

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In this March 23, 2016 photo, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer Ericson Padilla right, checks the documents of an Indonesian fisherman from an American fishing vessel docked in Honolulu.



ERWIN ENCINARES
Saipan Chamber of Commerce secretary Alex Sablan informs Chamber members about the united front that local business leaders would present on the oversight hearing next week at the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C.



IN TAXPAYER'S LAWSUIT OVER F \$400K APPROPRIATION FOR M/V LUTA

DelRosario questions OAG serving as counsel for Hocog and Larson

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former Department of Public Lands secretary John DelRosario is questioning the Office of the Attorney General for serving as counsel for Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog and Department of Finance Secretary Larissa Larson in his lawsuit against them

over the transfer of \$400,000 in government funds to Luta Mermaid LLC, that owns cargo ship M/V *Luta*.

DelRosario, through counsel Jennifer Dockter, moves the Superior Court to disqualify OAG as counsel for Hocog and Larson, arguing that such representation poses an impermissible conflict of interest, violates

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INSIDE



LOCAL

For the first time this year, the communities of Japan and Polynesia will take the stage at the 2016 International Festival of Cultures tomorrow.

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NATION

More than 3,000 children and young adults lost a parent in the deadliest terror attack on American soil, instantly becoming known as the children of 9/11.

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LIFE & STYLE

The flesh-colored, skin-tight beaded gown Marilyn Monroe wore during her breathless rendition of "Happy Birthday" to President John F. Kennedy is going on the auction block this fall.

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Local

Tinian Dynasty, foreign workers fail to reach settlement deal

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The owners of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino have not reached a settlement with over 500 current and former foreign workers who sued them over the denial of their CNMI-only Transitional Worker (CW-1) petitions.

At a settlement conference on Wednesday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy, however, encouraged the parties to continue settlement discussions.

Kennedy set the next settlement conference for May 19, 2017.

According to the minutes of the settlement conference, attorney Samuel Mok appeared with plaintiff Eric Dona and nine other co-plaintiffs.

Attorney Daniel Guidotti

appeared with Raymond Chan, who was identified as the authorized representative for Tinian Dynasty owners and management Hong Kong Entertainment and Megastar.

In setting the Wednesday's settlement conference, Kennedy ordered that each party shall attend the conference with an authorized representative possessing settlement authority and counsel.

In their lawsuit, Dona and co-plaintiffs, through counsel Mok, alleged that the owners and management of Tinian Dynasty lied to them about their immigration legal status.

Mok alleged that the owners and management of Tinian Dynasty lied that they were legally authorized to work notwithstanding the denial of their CW-1 petitions.

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Patient files complaint against Medical Referral staff

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The family of Moses Torres Pangelinan has filed a complaint against Jayson Hocog Aldan, a staff of the CNMI Medical Referral Program in Hawaii. The letter of complaint, dated Sept. 6, 2016, was addressed to program director Ronald Sablan.

The letter, a copy of which was given to the *Saipan Tribune*, detailed the events that happened on July 29, 2016 when Pangelinan, escorted by his daughter Maria Ana Pangelinan-Rangamar and son-in-law Sylvan M. Rangamar—who paid for his airline ticket, had his scheduled check up at the Queens Medical Wound Care Unit.

Pangelinan-Rangamar listed the incidents “that occurred and the conversation between the [Medical Referral] personnel, myself, and other member of my family who witnessed this terrible treatment and attitude.”

She said that her father had a 9am appointment at Queens with Aldan arriving at their hotel, Pagoda Hotel, to pick them up at around 8:15am. Aldan dropped them off at the hospital where he told Pangelinan and his family to text or call him when they are done with the check up and would return to the hotel.

Pangelinan-Rangamar said that her father’s treatment on his right foot lasted for only 30 minutes so he asked her husband to text Aldan. Rangamar then informed Aldan: “Bro, we’re done at Wound Care” with the Medical Referral staff answering back “okay, picking up at Pagoda and dropping to Queens. Be there soon.”

She said that close to two hours later Aldan was still not at the hospital so she asked her husband to text somebody else. Rangamar asked another Medical Referral staff Joe Lifoifoi. “Prim can someone pick us up at Queens Wound Care,” he texted Lifoifoi.

“I’m not sure what happened to Jay. [His] last text at ‘9:36am picking up at Pagoda’ and he will be on his way here

but still none. I mean, it’s been an hour since last text, please lai, send someone else,” Rangamar’s text to Lifoifoi continued.

Lifoifoi, after Rangamar’s text, called him and told him that he was not sure what happened to Aldan. “We’re here at Don Quijote and when we’re done we’ll come pick you guys up.”

Lifoifoi added that Rangamar should have called him if an incident like this happened. Lifoifoi along with Katrina Lizama arrived at the hospital and were transported back to their hotel.

On Aug. 5, she asked Aldan, who picked up another Medical Referral patient at the Pagoda Hotel, if he was the one who would fetch them. “Are you going to pick up from here [Pagoda] and just leave us off at Queens?” To which Aldan responded “yes.”

Her husband then asked Aldan: “What she meant is, are you going to drop us off and make us wait for two hours like the last time you made us wait at Queens?”

Aldan then said that he texted Lifoifoi and Lizama “to pick you guys up.” Pangelinan-Rangamar, however, said it was her husband who was the one who texted Lifoifoi and not Aldan.

It was then when voices were raised and an argument followed between Rangamar and Aldan, who exchanged heated words. Aldan further got mad when Rangamar asked him “what kind of public servant are you?”

Aldan said that he was insulted when Rangamar called him a servant and answered that he was not a “political hire” and the position on his contract is a Medical Referral driver. He even told Rangamar and his wife that he would ask Lifoifoi to have a meeting about the incident.

Pangelinan-Rangamar said Aldan did not mind the other hotel guests and continued to talk in a loud voice. She said that her husband asked Aldan to go since there were two people waiting in the car who needed to be dropped for their medical appointment.

Aldan, before leaving, told them “I’m going to tell [Lifoifoi] and we’re going to have a meeting about this, you small-minded people.”

Pangelinan-Rangamar said that later on the same day on Aug. 5, Lifoifoi called them and said he wanted to talk to her husband. Rangamar recounted to Lifoifoi what had happened on July 29.

Lifoifoi told Rangamar that Aldan was not “like this and [he] cares about you guys because you guys are from the home island.”

The family is hoping director Sablan would act on the matter.

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FOREIGN

From Page 1

basic rights or protections.

About 700 men from impoverished Southeast Asian and Pacific Island nations make up the bulk of the workforce in this unique U.S. fishing fleet. A federal loophole allows them to take the dangerous jobs without proper work permits, just as long as they don't set foot on shore.

Americans buying Hawaiian seafood are almost certainly eating fish caught by one of these workers.

A six-month Associated Press investigation found fishing crews living in squalor on some boats, forced to use buckets instead of toilets and suffering running sores from bed bugs. There have been instances of human trafficking, active tuberculosis and low food supplies.

"We want the same standards as the other workers in

America, but we are just small people working there," said fisherman Syamsul Maarif, who didn't get paid for four months. He was sent back to his Indonesian village after nearly dying at sea when his Hawaiian boat sank earlier this year.

Because they have no visas, the men can't fly into Hawaii, so they're brought by boat. And since they're not technically in the country, they're at the mercy of their American captains on American-flagged, American-owned vessels, catching choice swordfish and ahi tuna that can fetch more than \$1,000 apiece. The entire system contradicts other state and federal laws, yet operates with the blessing of U.S. officials and law enforcement.

"People say these fishermen can't leave their boats, they're like captives," said U.S. Attorney Florence Nakakuni in Hawaii. "But they don't have visas, so they can't leave their boat, really."

Each of the roughly 140 boats in the fleet docks about once every three weeks, occasionally at ports along the West Coast, including Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco, but mainly at Piers 17 and 38 in Honolulu. Their catch ends up at fancy restaurants and in supermarkets' premium fish counters across the country, including Whole Foods, Costco and Sam's Club.

All companies that responded condemned the mistreatment of workers. Costco said it was investigating. Wal-Mart, which owns Sam's Club, declined to comment.

Charlie Nagle, whose family has been in the seafood industry for 130 years, said his buyers "do not and will never knowingly source from vessels that mistreat their crew." Richard Stavis of Stavis Seafood said Thursday that his company is not currently selling fish from Hawaii.

Whole Foods spokeswoman McKinsey Crossland said

only 1 percent of the chain store's seafood comes from Hawaii, and she has been assured that boat crews are well paid with bonuses and health insurance. She added that the company is looking into the issue.

The AP obtained confidential contracts and interviewed boat owners, brokers and more than 50 fishermen in Hawaii, Indonesia and San Francisco as part of an ongoing global look at labor abuses in the fishing industry. Last year, the AP reported about fishermen locked in a cage and buried under fake names on the remote Indonesian island village of Benjina. Their catch was traced to the United States, leading to more than 2,000 slaves being freed. But thousands more remain trapped worldwide in a murky industry where work takes place far from shore and often without oversight.

In Hawaii, federal contrac-

tors paid to monitor catches are troubled by what they've seen while living at sea with the men.

"It's like, 'How is this even legal? How is this possible?'" said Forest O'Neill, who coordinates boat observers in Honolulu. "They are like floating prisons."

Under the law, U.S. citizens must make up 75 percent of the crew on most American commercial fishing boats. But influential lawmakers, including the late Hawaii Sen. Daniel Inouye, pushed for a loophole to support one of the state's biggest industries. It exempted commercial fishing boat owners from federal rules enforced almost everywhere else.

Thus the workers in Hawaii, who catch \$110 million worth of seafood annually, are paid as little as 70 cents an hour. They are detained on boats by captains who are required by law to hold their passports. That potentially goes against federal human traf-

ficking laws saying bosses who hold workers' identification documents can face up to five years in prison.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Coast Guard routinely inspect the Hawaiian boats. At times, fishermen complain they're not getting paid and officers say they tell owners to honor the contracts. But neither agency has any authority over actual wages.

"This is a unique situation," said Coast Guard vessel examiner Charles Medlicott. "But it is legal."

On some boats the fishermen are paid as little as \$350 a month, but many make \$500 to \$600. A lucky few get a percentage of the catch, making it possible to triple their wages. The men are willing to give up their freedom to take these jobs because the pay is better than they can make back home in developing countries where many people live on less than \$1 a day.

WORKERS

From Page 1

been recovering after years of slump.

"We are estimating somewhere between 3,400 and 4,000 workers are going to be displaced on our operations for our economy prior to FY 2017. We have roughly 9,145 CW workers in the CNMI, prior to the cap being exhausted as of May this year," said Sablan.

"Roughly 7,000 construction workers are projected to be in the next fiscal year under the CW cap. We are estimating somewhere between 3,400 and 4,000 workers again are going to be displaced."

That's why Sablan, along with other members of the local business community, will be presenting a collective position to the U.S. House of Representatives in an oversight hearing by the Committee on Natural Resources,

which referred Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan's (Ind-Saipan) House Resolution 5888 to the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs.

Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah 1st District) is the head of the House Committee on Natural Resources, while Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska at-large) leads the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs, which also handles the matters regarding U.S. insular areas.

The oversight hearing will be held on Sept. 13 in Washington, D.C. at 11am (local time) at the Longworth House Office Building in the U.S. House of Representatives. The hearing aims to review the economic impact of the CW program that ends in 2019.

The hearing will be streamed live on the committee website [<http://naturalresources.house.gov>] at 1am on Wednesday, Sept. 14, in the CNMI.

Extending the program up to 2029 and increasing the cap to 18,000 contract workers from the current 12,999 limit are among the provisions included on H.R. 5888.

Chamber secretary Sablan is the Strategic Economic Development Council's CW and Labor Task Force chair.

Sablan said their presentation would discuss the current situation of the CNMI economy and the impact the CW-1 program to the local workforce. "[What] we're going to present to them [is] based on the overall number that we project for losses in the CW-1 category for operations this year [and] this next fiscal year."

He added that's why the Chamber wants to hear what would be its impact to local businesses so they could share it to Congress with construction workers expected to dominate the application for CW visas next fiscal year.

"So that we can share this

with Congress, let them know that we truly need the increase in CW numbers in order to project forward our growing economy."

Members of the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands, Society for Human Resources Management-NMI Chapter, and the Saipan Small Business Development Center will join the Chamber in presenting a unified front to the oversight hearing.

Alex Sablan said they have been meeting regularly the past three months where they discussed the issues and the plan of hiring a consultant in Washington, D.C. They would meet with the consultant in the nation's capital. "The idea is to develop a pact or some form of organization."

"Where the businesses channel funds to this group and pay to help us lobby for changes on legislation in Congress. We perceived that things are going to move for-

ward. We will also be asking for your [Chamber members] support," said Sablan.

CNMI's economic, labor issues

Delegate Sablan, in a statement, said the hearing would be the CNMI's opportunity to highlight the current economic climate and present the challenges it would face in the future. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the local business community support Sablan's HR 5888.

"Thanks to [Representatives] Bishop and Young for agreeing to my request to convene this oversight hearing," said Delegate Sablan, a vice ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee.

"With the current increase in investment and the difficulties surrounding the Commonwealth-only Transitional Worker program I think the time is right," added Sablan, who arranged the meeting between Bishop's committee staff and

the CNMI business leaders.

"I appreciate the time that Alex Sablan, [HANMI's] Gloria Cavanagh, [SCC president] Velma Palacios, and [SHRM representative] Frank Gibson all took to meet with the staff, when they were on island, and help persuade them of the need for a hearing. The business leaders made a convincing case," Sablan said.

Under the CW-1 program, employers must either replace their workers with U.S. citizens or permanent residents, citizens from neighboring Freely Associated States in the Pacific or foreigners that have other work visa status.

U.S. Public Law 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act, extended U.S. immigration law to the Northern Marianas, beginning in 2009 and the law created the special CW immigration classification to allow foreign workers to the CNMI. The program ends on Dec. 31, 2019.

DELROSARIO

From Page 1

the duties of OAG, and taints the fairness of the proceedings.

Dockter said as the attorney for Hocog, the OAG must defend against allegations that their client, Hocog, breached the Government's Ethics Act.

However, the lawyer said, as attorney for Larson, the OAG has admitted facts to establish that Hocog breached the Government's Ethics Act.

Dockter said as attorney for the Commonwealth, the OAG must defend the laws and bring legal action for violations of Government Ethics Act.

However, the lawyer said, as attorney for Hocog, the

OAG is defending against violations of the law that they are constitutionally mandated to uphold.

She asserted that OAG cannot represent both Hocog and Larson and fulfill their duties to the people of the CNMI.

"The positions are impossibly oppositional," Dockter pointed out.

Dockter said this quagmire created by OAG's attempted representation of both Hocog and Larson cannot be avoided and such OAG's representation violates their duties of professional conduct and violates their duties to the people of the Commonwealth.

Dockter said it is a level of misconduct that taints the fairness of these proceedings and thus, disqualification of OAG

is necessary.

She said OAG's representation of both Hocog and Larson creates a concurrent conflict of interest because Larson admits facts adverse to Hocog; Larson implicated the late governor Eloy S. Inos and former client of OAG; and the AG owes a duty to the Commonwealth to prosecute violations of the law.

Dockter noted that in her answer to DelRosario's lawsuit, Larson, through OAG, makes certain admissions adverse to Hocog.

The lawyer said Larson admits that Hocog "offered" and voted on Rota Legislative Delegation Resolution 19-3, which authorized payment of public funds to Luta Mermaid LLC.

Dockter said Larson admits

that the shareholders of Luta Mermaid LLC are relatives of Hocog as defined by the Government Ethics Act.

As such, Dockter said, Larson has admitted that Hocog offered and voted upon a resolution that gave \$400,000 to his relatives.

Dockter said Larson admits that, "Hocog voted on Resolution 19-3 which gave \$400,000 to his relatives' corporation."

The lawyer said Larson has openly admitted to facts, which sufficiently and plainly establish that Hocog violated the Government Ethics Act.

Dockter said the AG is responsible for providing legal advice and representing the governor, including the late governor Inos during his tenure.

She noted that Larson as part of her apparent defense in this matter states that she transferred funds to Lt. Gov. Hocog's family business "pursuant to direct order" of then-governor Inos.

The AG, Dockter said, has asserted a defense that directly blames and implicates their former client.

Dockter said if the Public Auditor investigates the acts alleged in this matter, the Public Auditor is legally required to send its report of findings to the governor—who is also represented by the AG.

Lt. Gov. Hocog has claimed that he is entitled to legislative immunity and therefore the court should dismiss DelRosario's lawsuit.

DelRosario disagrees.

Dockter said Hocog is not protected by legislative immunity for the acts he undertook without authority and which violated the law, his ethical obligations, and his duty to Commonwealth taxpayers.

DelRosario filed last May a taxpayer's lawsuit against Hocog and Larson over the alleged adoption of a Rota Legislative Delegation resolution without public notice that purportedly authorized payment of \$400,000 to Luta Mermaid LLC, a private company owned by Hocog's relatives.

DelRosario is suing Hocog and Larson for breach of fiduciary duties, and expenditure of public funds for an improper purpose. In addition, Hocog is sued for violation of the Open Government Act.

Ex-convict facing charges for guns, ammo possession enters plea deal

Herman P. Santos, an ex-convict who was indicted in federal court for alleged possession of two firearms and ammunitions at separate incidents on Saipan, has entered a plea deal with the U.S. government.

The sealed plea agreement was filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Wednesday.

With the plea deal, assistant U.S. attorney Russell H. Lorffing, counsel for the U.S. government, moved the court yesterday to vacate pretrial conference and set a change of plea hearing.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Lorffing's request and set the change of plea hearing for today, Friday, at 1:30pm.

Santos is currently out on bail and under the custody of his mother and stepfather, former representative Christopher Leon Guerrero.

The indictment charged Santos with two counts of felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition.

Santos is also known as Hermanny Palacios Santos, Hermanny Palacios Santos, and Jr. Santos.

According to the indictment, Santos, having been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term of exceeding one year, knowingly possessed a Harrington and Richardson model 732 .32 caliber revolver and three rounds of .32 caliber ammunition, on Dec. 6, 2015.

Santos was also allegedly found in possession of a Savage Arms Model 24 410/22 "over and under" firearm and 11 rounds of .22 ammunition and two .410 shotgun shells, on June 3, 2016.

According to Superior Court records, the Dec. 6, 2015 incident stemmed from the arrest of Santos for allegedly pointing a handgun at two men he accused of beating up his father, Leon Guerrero, at a poker establishment in Garapan.

Police officers later checked the back of Santos' house, where they recovered a .32 revolver handgun with three bullets in the cylinder. That same day, Dec. 6, police arrested him.

Last January, the Superior Court dismissed the amended information charging Santos with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, upon the Office of the Attorney General's request. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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Life In Motion



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The pristine beauty of the island of Pagan was captured by photographer Roy Jacinto, who was part of the Too Beautiful to Bomb film crew that made the trip to the Northern Islands last month.

Documentary to show Pagan to the world, says Aldan

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The documentary "Too Beautiful to Bomb" would show the world the beauty and ecological diversity of Pagan, one of the CNMI's Northern Islands

said Mayor Jerome Aldan. Sylvan Tudela and a film crew shot footages of Pagan when they went there last month.

Tudela, who owns Chelu Photos, went there with drone operator Carlo Domingo and photographer Roy Jacinto. Diego Kaipat, a former Pagan resident, was also a member of the film crew while Gus Castro, a staff of the Northern Islands Mayor's Office served as their guide.

They were part of a 20-member group that went to Pagan and had to extend their stay due to inclement weather. Earthjustice and other environmental groups filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of the Navy and Secretary Ray Mabus, and U.S. Department of Defense and Secretary Ashton Carter last month on their plans to use Pagan as a live firing range.

Earthjustice attorney David Henkin is representing the Tinian Women's Association, Guardians of Gani, and PaganWatch in the lawsuit.

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation appropriated money to fund the film crew's trip to Pagan in cooperation with Aldan's office. Other members of the group paid for their trip except Celia K. Selepo, whose inclusion was made possible when Dave Lotz gave up his seat after he could not make it.

Aldan said it was a good thing that the Too Beautiful to Bomb group of former representative Cinta Kai-pat filmed the documentary. "Somebody needs to capture the beauty of the island. We don't know what's going to happen tomorrow."

"God knows what's going to happen tomorrow. We're still in the 902 talks and we don't know what will be the decision later on. What's going to happen to Pagan?" asked Aldan.

He said that filming and documenting by the non-profit group would show the future generation what Pagan looks like.

"I believe in what they're [Too Beautiful to Bomb group] doing. And at least our children and other future generation would know that we fought for our island. That we tried to keep it as pristine and beautiful as can be," Aldan said.

Environmental groups and other concerned citizens also made an online petition where they managed to gather more than 100,000 signatures that was also transmitted and included on the documents given to the military.

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Palacios wants Aldan to talk to Torres

Senate vice president Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) advised Northern Islands Mayor Jerome Aldan to continue in reaching out to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and raise the concerns that would affect the municipality's 10 islands, particularly Pagan.

The military plans to build a live-fire training facility in Pagan and it is one of the issues being discussed in the two rounds of 902 talks between the U.S. government representative and the CNMI panel.

Aldan, in an earlier interview, said he was surprised that he was not included in the CNMI panel despite trying to arrange a one-on-one meeting with Torres. "I really wanted to join the panel and I was hoping that I would get invited."

Palacios said he understands how Aldan feels. "I'm not sure if I should talk about that because first of all the governor has the prerogative. I certainly understand his [Aldan's] disappointment, having said that, I'm not in the position since it is always the governor's call."

"In fact, the governor has also the prerogative to invite members of the Legislature—both the Senate and the House—to be on the 902 panel. That's his [Torres] prerogative and I don't want to second guess that."

Palacios, however, advised Aldan to talk to Torres. "I understand [Aldan's] disappointment but I still encourage him to set aside any dismay."

"If he has any input, he should communicate with me or with the governor directly. I had the intention to call him up and I agree that he must also be part of the 902 panel."

Aldan said Palacios called him after the first 902 talks in Washington, D.C. last June where the senator showed him an executive summary of what was discussed. The second round was held last month in Hawaii.

Aldan said that Palacios even told him that he asked Torres to include him on the CNMI panel in Hawaii. However, he added that they had already submitted the Northern Islands Municipality's position on several issues that will be discussed in the 902 talks.

He said that he tried a number of times to reach out to Torres since the island that is involved is under the Municipality of the Northern Islands. "Maybe I'm too straight forward but I was also invited to see the live-fire training range in Hawaii."

"I texted the governor so I could meet with him since there are a lot issues I would want to discuss. I asked for a

one-on-one meeting before he left for Hawaii. I also had no chance to meet him last week [Monday]."

Torres is again off-island having left Sunday for Alaska where he would meet Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski.

Murkowski is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and related agencies under the Committee

on Appropriations of the U.S. Senate. Torres wants an audience with her to talk about the proposed extension of

the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker nonimmigrant visa (CW-1) program and other labor issues. (Jon Perez)



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2016 Honda Accord LX retail price \$25,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 72 monthly payments of \$338.79 or \$156.37 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$24,392.88.

Congressional hearing on NMI economic, labor issues set for next week

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) says that the congressional oversight hearing scheduled for next Tuesday, Sept. 13, will be an opportunity to highlight the current economic turnaround in the Marianas and to lay out the challenges to continuing that development.

The hearing was announced late yesterday by the House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Alex Sablan, chair of the Strategic Economic Development Council's CW and Labor Task Force, are among the witnesses invited to testify.

"Thanks to Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop and Chairman Don Young of the Subcommittee for agreeing to my request to convene this oversight hearing," said Sablan, who is vice ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee. "With the current increase in investment and the difficulties surrounding the Commonwealth-only transitional worker program I think the time is right."

Sablan arranged for Bishop's committee staff to meet with business leaders in the Marianas last month as part of the Congressman's effort to obtain a hearing. "I appreciate the

time that Mr. Alex Sablan, Ms. Gloria Cavanagh of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, Ms. Velma Palacios of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. Frank Gibson of the Society of Human Resource Managers all took to meet with the staff, when they were on island, and help persuade them of the need for a hearing.

"The business leaders made a convincing case," Sablan said.

Entitled "Reviewing the economic impacts from the implementation of the Commonwealth-only worker program in the Northern Mariana Islands under Public Law 110-229,"

the hearing will focus especially on the availability of labor.

Public Law 110-229, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act, extended U.S. immigration law to the Northern Marianas, beginning in 2009. The law created the special Commonwealth-only (CW) immigration classification to allow foreign workers into the Marianas, but that program ends on December 31, 2019.

In the meantime, employers of the current 12,999 CW workers will have to replace them with U.S. citizens or permanent residents, with citizens from the neighboring Freely Associated States

in the Pacific, or with foreign workers having some other work visa status.

The Northern Marianas' remote location and low-wage economy can make recruiting difficult, however. And with CW workers comprising almost half of the total workforce in the Marianas, failure to replace them would cripple the economy, which is experiencing a growth spurt.

Torres and his Section 902 team put forward proposals for a long-term solution, when they met with the Special Representative of President Obama in June. And Congressman Sablan has introduced legislation mirroring those proposals.

"That bill could form the ba-

sis of a legislative resolution to the labor needs of the Commonwealth economy," Sablan said.

"At the hearing the Commonwealth witnesses will be able to lay out the case for legislative action. But they have to be ready to answer some tough questions, and be able to show that there is a local plan in place to train, recruit, and hire U.S. workers," Sablan added.

The oversight hearing is set for Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2016 at 11am in Washington, which is 1am Wednesday, Sept. 14, in the CNMI. Committee hearings are streamed live on the committee website at <http://naturalresources.house.gov>. (PR)

structure as the Rotary Club has finally raised enough funds.

"Kagman Family Park has finally been starting construction. We have just finalized the contract with the construction company," said Ilmov. "We have been raising money for this for several years, and finally we have enough to start construction. The Kagman Family Park would be beside the Kagman Community Center."

This year, the Rotary Club is saving money to donate dictionaries to third graders of both public and private schools and the Million Dollar Scholars of Kagman High School.

"All money goes to fundraising. We raised money for the Kagman Family Park, this year we are raising several projects we have. We buy dictionaries for third graders, and Million Dollar Scholars for Kagman High School," said Ilmov.

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinaires@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan has scheduled its signature annual fundraising event, Las Vegas Night, for Nov. 5 at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort.

Rotary Club president Ivan Ilmov said doors open at 7pm and the event ends at exactly 12pm.

Various prizes would be available for the raffle, including the grand prize—a 2016 Mazda 3 or \$10,000 cash. Runner-up prizes include \$3,000, \$2,000, \$1,000, \$500 as well as door prizes. Raffle tickets are \$5 per ticket, with ticket booklets costing \$20.

The local Rotary Club's uses funds raised from Las Vegas Night to finance its various community projects. Las Vegas Night 2015 raised money for the construction of Kagman Family Park, which has just started con-

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
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SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MICRONESIA MARIANAS DISTRIBUTING CORPORATION,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 92-0250 and consolidated cases (C.A. Nos. 93-0808, -v- 00-0496, 01-0203, 01-0515, and FREDDY U. HOFSCHEIDER, JR., : 01-0560; and S.C. Nos. 99-1074, Defendants. : 00-0012, 00-0053 and 00-0108)
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FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Amended Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on May 11, 2016, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Lot 025 T 03, containing an area of 48,914 square meters, situated in Marpo Valley, Tinian;

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, September 30, 2016, at the hour of 1:30p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 29th day of August, 2016:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0130
Plaintiff	:	-v-
	:	ANTONIO C. BARCINAS AND RAMONA SN. BARCINAS
Defendants.	:	00-0012, 00-0053 and 00-0108

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. Dated August 24, 2016 by order of the Court.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Another sexual abuse of a minor case on Rota

There's another case of sexual abuse of a minor on Rota.

This time, a 64-year-old Coastal Resources Management retiree was arrested on Wednesday afternoon for allegedly sexually abusing a 12-year-old girl on several occasions.

Manases Masga Manglona Sr. was served with an arrest warrant in Teneto Village on charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. He was then taken to the Department of Corrections in Susupe, Saipan.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho appoint-

ed assistant public defender Tillman Clark as counsel for Manglona and maintained the \$50,000 cash bail.

Camacho denied Clark's motion to allow the defendant to post \$5,000 cash or 10 percent of the \$50,000 cash bail.

Preliminary hearing will be on Sept. 13 at 1:30pm. Arraignment will be on Sept. 26 at 9am.

Rota Department of Public Safety Police Detective Shaw Clay DLC Taisacan stated in his report that DPS Central received a call on Tuesday morning from a principal of a school on Rota about a sexual abuse of a minor case.

Taisacan said investigation showed that the victim confessed to a teacher that Manglona has been sexually abusing her and that she wants it to stop.

Taisacan said during an interview with a police offi-

cer, the girl recalled that the last time Manglona sexually abused her was last July.

The girl said she was so scared to tell anyone about it.

The girl also recalled that Manglona sexually abused

her last April 17 at the abandoned Pao-Pao Hotel building in Liyo. She said other incidents happened at a house.

Taisacan said during an interview, the mother stated that she did not have a clue what

was going on with her daughter and Manglona.

Manglona has a prior criminal misdemeanor convictions in 1977 and 1981, according to court records. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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1. Slogan "Rest assured, it's Christmas."
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3. Dimension must not exceed 18" x 24".

Submit

All artwork must be submitted by September 16, 2016, 3:00 pm.

1. Original copies only
2. Drop off to Pacifica's Susupe office
3. Art piece must indicate: full name, age, schoolname, mailing & email address, & telephone.

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1. Each art piece will be judged on creativity, quality, theme, & presentation.
2. Winner will be announced on September 30, 2016.

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- ¤ 670-484-5821 ¤
- ¤ legendrealtycnmi@gmail.com ¤

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- ¤ Total Area ¤
- ¤ Building area (if with existing building) ¤
- ¤ Title information ¤
- ¤ Asking price ¤



Mike Sablan poses with the volunteer cleanup crew at Winchell's after PDM Promoters conducted its monthly cleanup of Paseo de Marianas last Sunday.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Volunteers from the Saipan Awaodori Team and Kinpachi Restaurant pose with the 660 lbs of trash they collected during their monthly cleanup of the Paseo de Marianas area last Sunday.



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AFTER MONTHLY CLEANUP AT PDM

Saipan Awaodori Team and resto staff treated to donuts

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinaires@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Awaodori Team and a couple of restaurant staff were treated with snacks and treats at Winchell's by Mike Sablan after volunteering at the monthly cleanup of PDM Promoters at the Paseo de Marianas last Sunday.

Aside from the 25 Awaodori Team members, the volunteers in last weekend's cleanup also included six Kinpachi Restaurant staff.

In all, the cadre of volunteers collected 660 lbs of trash all around and inside alleys of the Paseo de Marianas, in-

cluding parts of Coral Tree Avenue, American Memorial Park Road, Beach Road, and Winchell's Road.

Sablan, while enjoying his Sunday morning coffee at Winchell's, noticed the volunteers cleaning up the place. He then generously treated the volunteers to snacks and treats for their hard work cleaning the area.

The cleanup of the Paseo de Marianas area started at about 9am and ended at 11am. The Saipan Awaodori Team has been cleaning up the area monthly on a voluntary basis in order to showcase the Paseo de Marianas area to tourists.

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,	Civil Action No. 15-0086
Plaintiff,	
vs.	NOTICE OF HEARING
FLORIDA A. GRIZZARD,	FOR PETITION FOR
Defendant.	APPROVAL OF THE
	ESTATE LEASE
	PAYMENT DISTRIBUTION
	AGREEMENT AND FOR A
	DECREE OF PARTIAL
	DISTRIBUTION
	Deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on October 11, 2016, at 9:00 am, a hearing will be held before Judge Govendo on Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgement in the above-captioned matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, Guma Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 18th day of August, 2016.

/s/ Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

ANTONETTE R. VILLAGOMEZ, ESQ.
LAW OFFICE OF ANTONETTE R.
VILLAGOMEZ
Tasi Lane, Dandan
P.O. Box 501517
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 288-0173
Fax: (670) 234-0885

Attorney for Administrator
Manuel P. Villagomez

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF	<input type="checkbox"/> CIVIL ACTION
THE ESTATE OF:	<input type="checkbox"/> NO. 07-0277
	<input type="checkbox"/>
LUISA PANGELINAN	<input type="checkbox"/> NOTICE OF HEARING
VILLAGOMEZ,	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR PETITION FOR
a.k.a.	<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL OF THE
	<input type="checkbox"/> ESTATE LEASE
	<input type="checkbox"/> PAYMENT DISTRIBUTION
	<input type="checkbox"/> AGREEMENT AND FOR A
	<input type="checkbox"/> DECREE OF PARTIAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRIBUTION
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Deceased.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Petition for Approval of the Estate Lease Payment Distribution Agreement and for a Decree of Partial Distribution by Manuel P. Villagomez, the Administrator of the above-captioned estate, shall be heard on September 15, 2016 at 9:00 am before Judge Joseph N. Camacho at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan.

Dated this 12th day of August 2016.

PATRICK V. DIAZ
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Stellar Marianas seeks assistance from SNILD

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Stellar Marianas president of Laila Younis-Boyer requested members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to consider assisting the pageant organizer in its endeavors abroad during the public comments portion of the SNILD session last Sept. 2 on Capitol Hill.

Younis-Boyer started by explaining to SNILD members what Stellar Marianas is and its goals for the CNMI.

"Stellar Marianas is a non-profit organization designed to work together in partnership with hospitality industry," said Younis-Boyer. "We are striving to put the CNMI on the map. Not only on international stages, but also through community projects that we do throughout the year that help empower a lot of our young women, as well as our youth, in being active members of the community."

Younis-Boyer also assured the local delegation that the funding would be used mindfully and with interests that would be beneficial to the CNMI.

"Your consideration on this and your assistance is most ap-

preciated. We assure you that it is going to go a very long way in allowing the Northern Marianas to be a beacon not only here locally but also regionally and internationally," said Younis-Boyer.

Joining Younis-Boyer was 2016 Miss Marianas Peachy Quitugua, who is going to represent the CNMI in the upcoming Miss International competition on Oct. 27, 2016.

Younis-Boyer is working hard with Quitugua in preparation for the Miss International tilt. Younis-Boyer is also eyeing the CNMI's participation in the Miss World Competition 2016.

"We have been working really hard to prepare her and also for the first time we are also going to be pushing for participation in the Miss World, also scheduled for this year," said Younis-Boyer.

After introducing Quitugua to the members of the SNILD, Younis-Boyer claimed that the upcoming competitions are a great way to put the CNMI on the map. "She is going to leave for Tokyo, Narita for the Miss International competition in 2016, so we are extremely excited," she said.

The Miss World competition is an annual beauty pag-

eant event that is participated in by 125 countries with billions of viewership.

JON PEREZ

Stellar Marianas president Laila Younis-Boyer, right, speaks to members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation during the public comments portion of last week's SNILD session at the House chamber of the Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capitol Hill. At her right is 2016 Miss Marianas Peachy Quitugua.



Nominations for 2016 Governor's Humanities Awards sought

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is soliciting nominations for the 2016 Governor's Humanities Awards.

This event, held annually in October as a part of CNMI Humanities Month, recognizes outstanding contributions to the humanities by individuals and organizations in the community.

Nominees should have a notable humanities achievement in the past year, as demonstrated in any of the following four categories:

- Research and Publication in the Humanities;
- Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices;
- Preservation of CNMI History;
- Outstanding Humanities Teacher (in both classroom

and non-classroom settings).

A fifth category, Lifetime Achievement, recognizes significant contributions to the humanities over multiple decades. This award may be given posthumously.

Nomination form and instructions may be picked up at the council's office in the Springs Plaza Building, Gualo Rai.

Nominations are due no later than 4:30pm on Oct. 14, 2016.

Awards will be presented during the Governor's Humanities Awards which will be held in conjunction with the council's 25th Anniversary Dinner/Fundraiser on the evening of Oct. 28, 2016, at the Pacific Islands Club.

For more information, contact council staff at 235-4785. (PR)

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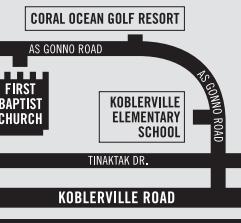
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 COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Mobile consular outreach on Saipan postponed

The Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam has postponed until further notice

its scheduled mobile consular outreach for September 2016 due to non-availability of travel funds.

The new schedule for mobile consular outreach on

Saipan will be announced and posted on the Consulate General's website and Facebook page. (PR)

AMP launches 2016 Every Kid in a Park program

American Memorial Park en-

courages all fourth graders to visit the park this year as part of the Every Kid in a Park program.

The Every Kid in a Park program is an Administration-wide effort between the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture,

the Department of the Army, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The program continues each year with the then-current group of fourth graders. After 12 years, every school-age child in America will have had an opportunity to visit their public land and waters for free, inspiring the next generation to be stewards of our nation's shared natural and cultural heritage.

For more information, please visit www.everykidinapark.gov and follow the program on Twitter @everykidinapark, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. (PR)

proposing suggestions for improved fiscal support of our business community. Panelists will offer their expertise and experience on key issues.

You may register for this conference by contacting the Chamber office at admin@saipanchamber.com or by calling 670-234-7150.

Space is limited so please contact us as soon as possible. Admittance for registered attendees is free, and has been generously sponsored Bank of Guam, United Airlines, Deloitte & Touche LLP, McDonalds Saipan, and Pacific Pancakes CNMI LLC. (PR)

Navy, Air Force to conduct training at FDM

ASAN, Guam—The Air Force and Navy will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Sept. 9 from 7:30am to 11pm
- Sept. 10 and 11 from 11am to 11pm

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides frequent access that supports

remove the statute of limitations on civil suits regarding sexual abuse of children. I am committed to working with Senator Blas Jr.'s Bill No. 326-33 (COR) to ensure that our laws allow victims of sexual abuse a reasonable recourse to seek redress through civil action. I fully support Senator Frank Blas Jr.'s Bill No. 326-33 (COR) to

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Kan Pacific Saipan

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION MONTH

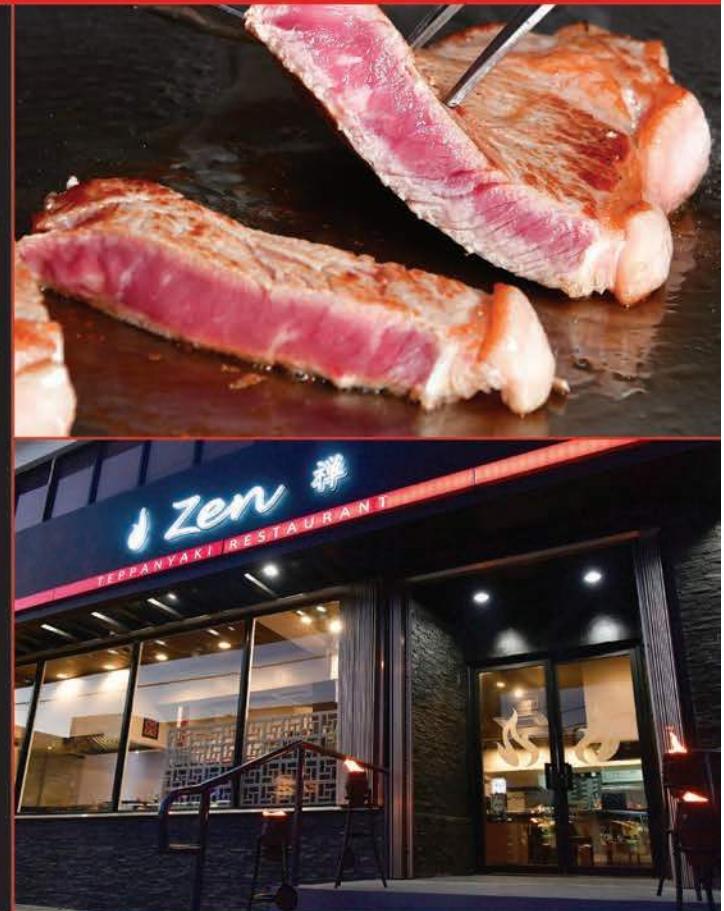
September 1st - 30th



\$49.99
Angus Beef Set
Bottomless Asahi Beer

MENU
Appetizer
Salad
Angus Beef Tenderloin (80g)
Angus Beef Sirloin (80g)
Vegetables
Miso Soup
Steamed rice & pickled vegetables
Dessert

Special only from 8:30pm - 10:30pm
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An Authentic Experience

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Remembering 9.11

We honor the memory of those who lost their lives on September 11.

 Mariana Resort & Spa



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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The wrath of Kim ... and other reasons to hate meetings

North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un recently ordered the execution by firing squad of a top government official for unspecified high crimes and misdemeanors against the state. Deputy Premier Kim Yong Jin, 63, was dispatched in a blaze of fire from an anti-aircraft gun, a South Korean newspaper reports.

What infraction prompted the supreme leader's ire?

Some accounts suggest that Kim Yong Jin dozed off during a meeting with He Who Is Not To Be Trifled With. Although maybe Kim Jong Un instead found fault with the deputy's reported "disrespectful posture." Was he slouching? Pouting? Unclear. The JoonAng Ilbo newspaper's epilogue: "He was arrested on-site and intensively questioned by the state security ministry. He was executed after other charges, such as corruption, were found during the probe."

Whatever his capital crime, Kim Jong Jin now becomes a global object of sympathy among all those millions of suffering, sleep-tempted minions trapped in interminable meetings that meander this way and that, sapping from its participants the very will to live.

Show of hands:

Who hasn't nodded off as a meeting droned into its second hour?

Who hasn't imagined a nice pillow and comfy bed while a co-worker prattled on about his or her stellar achievements in a desperate attempt to impress the boss, who, truth be told, seemed drowsy herself?

Who hasn't surreptitiously checked a smartphone or played a game in a fevered if dangerous bid to keep ... eyelids ... open.

Zzzzz ... Huh? OK, right, back to the editorial.

Kim Jong Un isn't the only dear leader who demands stern-faced attention at meetings.

American workers have told pollsters they'd opt to watch paint dry or undergo a root canal instead of being trapped in a go-nowhere meeting.

In the past we've cheered smart thinkers who innovated ways to reduce the inevitable meeting creep and veer. There's the walking meeting, espoused by tech titans Jack Dorsey of Twitter and Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook. A fine idea—we get some of our best ideas while walking—but assembling a meeting outdoors assumes the weather cooperates.

Another idea: Everyone stands. That way, no one gets too comfortable. Purportedly that helps meetings move along at a rapid clip, eliminating distractions and digressions. Several years ago a Sears exec with a military background tried this. Meetings got shorter. More crisp.

But some people complain that even standing meetings can stretch on for an hour or more.

And standing can make you tired. It can provoke foot and leg problems.

Note to standing-meeting bosses: The point isn't to stand

See KIM on Next Page



Corruption 'No Mas!'

The Open Government Act was approved by "we the people" to hold elected and appointed officials accountable for their actions. It wasn't intended to skip some so they could take a walk in the park. Nah! It's for everybody including legislators as soundly presented by Don Farrell in his letter this week.

In this connection, some \$40,000 was given to the Tinian Legislative Delegation to use at its discretion. Biktot Hokog gave it to the delegation as a gift of sort. Excuse me, sir, that's \$40K in taxes we've paid into the local coffers you've treated as though it's money from your kitty.

Was the \$40K appropriated and earmarked for purposes of the delegation? Now, if it comes out of Hokog's "discretionary" funds, still its expenditure must be accounted for with transparency per the OGA. Don't throw it under the carpet!

Could the highly esteemed Sen. Jude Hofschneider detail how this money was spent that allegedly paid for junket trips across the country campaigning at Saipan taxpayers' expense? Saipan taxpayers insist that this is explained with transparency, sir! Since when are Tinian and Rota delegations authorized to use Saipan taxpayers' taxes for corrupt political activities?

Guarding: It is also rumored that Hokog is allegedly buying delegation votes in the event there's a move for his impeachment in the illegal disposition of taxpayers' money of some \$400,000. Remember, he spearheaded it for his family's business, the MV *Luta*.

Now, if the court finds him guilty in the violation of the OGA and constitution, would the same guys who impeached Fitial render the same to Hokog? Eh, fair is fair, right? Must put a closure to this last chapter with integrity and finality!

The delegation is also rumored to be using the money to hire voters on 90-day contracts right before the election. At the end of the contract voters are back to square one—jobless—once more. Is it worth it? Biktot, what about the unemployed on Saipan and Rota?

Why are there so many jobless folks? Simple: Republicans failed to improve the local economy thus the lack of meaningful jobs anywhere on the island.

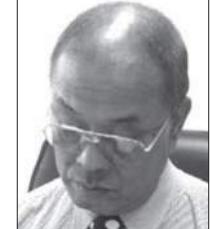
The use of taxpayers' money to curry votes is corrupt in every sense of the word. No wonder the carelessness in how public funds are hijacked for corrupt purposes. As a taxpayer I insist on accountability and transparency in how these funds are spent or I'd be knocking on doors. Corruption No Mas!

Braving blurred vision

Politicians have the habit venturing into issues with half-cocked understanding of the complexity of the matter before them. They do so with their instant soba mindset hoping their misperception sails quietly into the sunset when it fails truthful muster.

We recently saw the hasty establishment of a new \$100,000 political status commission that is useless from the outset. It's the perversion of the "permanent" arrangement under the Covenant Agreement ignoring the mutual consent provisions. Or did you use your usual reading deficiency to overlook mutual consent provisions? Here's a cakewalk to help your nimble mind on the

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

right protocol:

Fact 1: The NMI has a non-voting delegate in the U.S. Congress whose seat is the venue to submit our views on federal policies. It is representation in the U.S. Congress, the policymaking body of the federal government.

Fact 2: The NMI also has its 902 Team to review critical policies for submission to the US Congress via our non-voting delegate's office.

The paramount venues instantly nullify the redundant intent of Felicidad Ogumuro's status commission. It's a perfect plan though to waste scarce taxpayers' money. Did Ogumuro find at least one egregious violation of the mutual consent provisions by the feds warranting a call for serious talks? What specifically did you find and could you share it with us?

You're an advocate of indigenous rights. How were indigenous rights violated and isn't it true that the agreement was approved by over 78 percent of our people?

You see it's easy dissecting the goal of advocates yelling "indigenous rights". Have you ever explained the underlying reason you're doing this? Isn't it to use the less informed and poorer people to support your dictates just so you could prolong the so-called "elite culture" found between republican and incumbents allegedly under payroll by a certain firm here? If the truth hurts so it my friend!

Passports: Could the NMI really wrestle sovereignty from the feds? Are supporters of independence ready to surrender their U.S. passports? What currency would we use? Postal system? Handling of foreign affairs issues only the feds could dispose with allied countries? How do we provide defense of the NMI? Who would be our new mother country? Ready to pay for food stamps, Medicaid, basic infrastructure and others on our own? Eh, we broke already, braddah!

Mutual consent: Has any of you reviewed Section 105 on mutual consent? It includes Covenant Articles I, II, and III of the agreement including Sections 501 and 806. Section 501 has substantive issues requiring critical reading and review. Are you conversant of these provisions?

Guarding investments

Deeply troubling the shallowness of the elected elite on imperial Capital Hill who failed vision to carefully analyze investment trends in the NMI.

Some eight years ago, the NMI, through its shortsighted elect-

See CORRUPTION on Next Page

Coconuts or cactus?

Paradise usually brings to mind coconuts, not cactus. But dry desert skies can offer a paradise for stargazers. That's why I'm using the tailgate of an old pickup truck as a desk right now. My telescope and I are staying in a tent for the week. This puts me within 60 miles of Palm Springs, Calif.

Incidentally, a nearby stretch of desert, Joshua Tree National Park, hosts over 2 million visitors per year. That figure reflects substantial growth over the past couple of years. To put that in perspective, the CNMI tallied 479,649 visitors in fiscal year 2015, and fiscal year 2016 will be roughly the same (it ends in September).

So, yes, even this dry and craggy desert, where it easily gets over 115 degrees in the summer, is, for visitors, a paradise of sorts. I've seen quite a few international visitors. The stark and natural beauty is the big draw. Many are also attracted by the Old West flavor and the pioneering history of the area.

I've been visiting this area for many years, and I've noticed

a virtuous cycle for tourism. As tourism has increased, a more interesting array of restaurants, cafes, and shops has resulted, which, in turn, has created more of a draw for tourists.

Unlike the CNMI's stable climate, the desert is a land of extremes. It's no news that summers are scorching hot, but the winters can be surprisingly cold with nights that are often below freezing.

The area is a mecca for amateur astronomers. The local desert offers some areas that are reasonably free from urban light pollution, though the halos from Palm Springs and even Las Vegas are in evidence. The dry air often offers good conditions for astronomy, and my scope sits in a field that's about 3,000 feet above sea level. Some famous observatories are within a few hours' drive, such as the Palomar Observatory and the Mt. Wilson Observatory. Places like Caltech and the co-located Jet Propulsion Laboratory are also within striking distance. There is, then, a large and well-established astronomy culture in the region, a culture that encompasses professionals, academics, and amateurs.

Many of the amateurs have small but sophisticated observatories for astrophotography. This is a realm where the technology boom has really asserted itself. The telescopes are guided by computers, and their camera elements have special coolers to pull the temperatures down by 20 degrees C below ambient, thus reducing the amount of visual "noise" in the images. Well, that's what I overhear, at least. I don't understand any of it. I'm hopeless with even a simple camera, so astrophotography is way out of my league.

The big buzz in mainland astronomy is the upcoming Aug. 21, 2017, total solar eclipse. For reasons of cosmic geometry this event will be visible in portions of several states strung along a band that runs from Oregon to South Carolina. If it's going to be visible outside of the mainland, I haven't heard any details. Anyway, although the event is almost one year away, some mainland hotel rooms are reportedly filling up. I know several people who have already put in for vacation time, reserved rooms, and are planning excursions.

A total solar eclipse is when the moon gets between the earth

POEMS

A kinder gentler trumpet voluntary?

By JOSEPH CONNOLY

*real regret? did he give back the Purple Heart?
apologize to Mr. and Mrs. Khan for what he
described as a "vicious attack" on their part
decide to let babies cry while he is speaking
stop kicking brown skinned people wearing
t-shirts supporting him out of his rallies
absolutely refuse to ever use these NON
PRESIDENTIAL phrases again, "big loser"
"I'd like to punch him in the face." "knock
the crap out of him," and refrain from constantly
repeating words and phrases in his stump speeches.
its to the point it sounds like his vinyl record got stuck
or a tape loop in his memory bank is malfunctioning;
extreme, extreme; I am what I am; I regret it and I regret it"*

Self annotated 'puffed airhead king'

By JOSEPH CONNOLY

*well we have puffed corn, puffed wheat, and puffed rice
Burger King, Boudin King, Billie Jean and Donald King
wouldn't a thrice married 'Puffed Airhead King' be nice
D.T. stylish orange yellow popcorn hair and lots of bling
Beware! he's a bigot, he's a bully, he's belligerent at best
"a walking contradiction" and dangerous when he Tweets
he gives the slightest form of criticism absolutely no rest
sounds like a robo call with his constant one liner repeats
this privileged panderer is constantly changing his position
bad mouthing Sen.McCain, dead vets, families of war heroes
can't seem to make a thoughtful temperamental transition
winding up with grandiose guffaws as political party zeroes
of this bombastic jerk ball candidate not enough has been said
"I Alone Can Do It" crowned himself 'King Puffed Air Head'*

Joseph "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired CNMI PSS teacher who taught English on Tinian and Saipan from 1984 to 2014. He currently enjoys studying cosmology, Asian poetry, and life on Tinian.

CORRUPTION

From Page 14

ed elite decided it was perfectly fine to ignore Japanese and Korean investments here. The pulse of arrogance could be felt then slowly and quietly investments from the two countries took to jet ways and left.

The elected elite opened the path for a new investor who literally had them begging, "How high do I jump?" after selling their heart, mind, and soul to the company store. They now hum, "You Are My Sunshine" daily.

Junkets Galore: Raffy is crisscrossing the country while Biktot preps in Manila for an upcoming cockfight derby. Nobody's home other than puppet Francisco Borja yawning all daylong.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Power woes down south

Guam has been neglecting its electric power system for a long time. Cabras 3 and 4 became unrepairable last year, but there was no effort made to replace the lost generating capacity. The loss of Cabras 3 and 4 put increased workload on all other GPA generators. Cabras 1 sprung a leak last Friday, and Cabras 2 went down unexpectedly on Tuesday. This has resulted in rolling blackout on Guam since Tuesday, and expected to continue at least the rest of this week.

GPA wants to build a new 120-megawatt generator, which could cost \$400 million. They proposed the new generator last year, but it was vetoed because it is too expensive. If they go forward with the new generator now, it will take three years to build, but they will need it sooner because Cabras 1 and 2 are breaking down. Look for occasional rolling blackouts on Guam for the next three years or more.

It is important for every community everywhere to properly maintain its electric system. This situation on Guam is a warning that when things go bad, it can take a long time to set things right.

Philip Dauterman, MD

Via email

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



and the sun and the moon completely covers the sun. It doesn't become as dark as night, but it still dims things down a lot. Well, that's what I've been told. I've never seen one. Some enthusiasts take photos of such events, and there's much discussion about using the right techniques to capture the action. People travel across the world to do this stuff.

One of my pals, recently retired, is using the total eclipse as an excuse to spend a year doing wandering astronomy. He is buying a new van which he'll convert into a camper. Then he'll drive across the country basically goofing off and looking at the heavens.

As for my tent, I'm up most of the night, but the daytime is too hot to really allow for a long stretch of sleep. This is, for sure, a coffee-fueled mission. I've heard nothing of the outside world's affairs, events, or worries, and that's just fine with me; I sure could get used to this sort of peace and quiet, and tent dwelling has much to recommend it.

I haven't seen anything particularly novel in my telescope during this trip, but I have, instead, been getting reacquainted with some familiar sights.

Anyway, with 2 million visitors in the area annually, it can be called popular, if not paradise. There's room in life for coconuts as well as cactus, and, thankfully, we don't have to just choose one or the other.

By WADE BERRETTINI

The Philadelphia Inquirer



Wade Berrettini is the Karl E. Rickels professor of psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine. Readers may send him email at wadeb@mail.med.upenn.edu

What can be done to mitigate this tragedy?

While opioids are excellent in relieving acute pain, they are less well-suited to treat chronic pain due to side effects and because tolerance develops, so higher doses are needed, leading to more side effects. The medical profession must provide chronic nonprogressive pain patients with greater access to alternative treatments, such as nerve blocks, stimulators and acupuncture. Greater numbers of pain-medicine specialists are needed. The World Health Organization estimates that 22 percent of primary-care patients have chronic pain.

Second, greater investment in pain research is needed to identify compounds and devices that can relieve severe chronic nonprogressive pain without such risk for addiction. Research is needed to identify patients at high risk for opioid addiction, so that preventative measures (counseling and close monitoring) can be instituted should opioids be required for severe pain.

Third, a nationwide prescription-drug monitoring program is needed for prescription opioids (and other addictive medications), so that addicted patients are less able to obtain such medications from multiple physicians. In such a program, the details of the prescription for a covered medication are reported by the dispensing pharmacy to the nationwide database, and any physician prescribing for that patient has access to his prescription history. Hopefully, this would lead to earlier identification of those needing opioid addiction treatment.

Fourth, we must improve our ability to provide effective treatments for opioid-addicted individuals. This includes regular counseling, self-help groups and medications to assist the patient in maintaining abstinence from illicit opioids. There are three Food and Drug Administration-approved medications for the treatment of opioid addiction. This is nowhere more true than in our prisons, where so many returning citizens need treatment for opioid addiction upon parole.

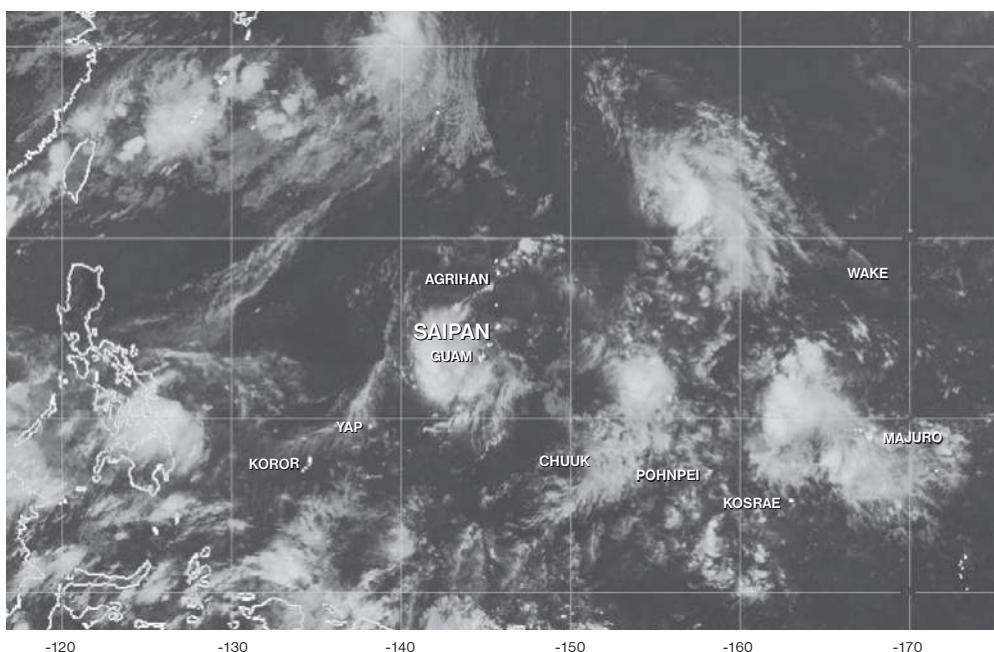
Currently, prescription opioids are a pillar of hope when faced with that "terrible lord of mankind." Collectively, we must deal more effectively with their risks. For all these reasons and more, it is incumbent upon our elected officials to take bold, decisive action to significantly reduce opioid addiction. Increased funding for research, prevention and treatment programs is critical to making significant headway in saving lives and ending a cycle of addiction in communities across the nation. Legislation that expands opioid-addiction treatment, recently signed into law, is a step in the right direction, but falls short of the funding needed to adequately address this epidemic. The next Congress and new administration must do more to give communities sufficient resources to combat this public health threat.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. South winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°	▲ 89° ▼ 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 11:37 AM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The surface trough and accompanying weak circulation will continue to drive weather in the Marianas today, more so for Guam than the CNMI. Latest runs of the GFS and ECMWF-HiRes show that the moister weather could continue through the next couple of days, possibly even the entire forecast period. If the trough morphs into a monsoon trough, which is possible since it does have westerlies to the south of it, it could become anchored with exactly this result. Will need to examine the next couple of model runs and see how ASCAT and other current data are developing.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲
Guam and Rota	Mostly cloudy	80 / 89 °F
Palau	Partly sunny	80 / 86 °F
Yap	Partly cloudy	76 / 91 °F
Chuuk	Afternoon clouds	78 / 89 °F
Pohnpei	Broken clouds	78 / 87 °F
Kosrae	Broken clouds	82 / 87 °F
Majuro	Broken clouds	82 / 87 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY

7:03 AM	LOW TIDE	0.33 Feet
1:48 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.47 Feet
7:14 PM	LOW TIDE	1.06 Feet
-	-	-

SUNRISE / SUNSET

Today	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM

MOONRISE / MOONSET

Today	12:09 PM	11:51 PM
Saturday	12:58 PM	-
Sunday	1:48 PM	12:39 AM
Monday	2:39 PM	1:30 AM
Tuesday	3:29 PM	2:23 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 10, 2016

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily	DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	OZ6053	10:35am	4:05pm	4, 7
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ6063	5:15pm	8:35pm	4, 7	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM	PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4	UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM	PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/2925	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR	UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM				
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM				
UA2920/193	2:20pm						

WE REMEMBER 9/11

Take a day to remember the day that changed us forever.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET FIELD OF HEROES

15th Anniversary of September 11th

Memorial Ceremony

CPA AIRPORT FIELD, SAIPAN
SEPTEMBER 11, 2016 (3:00 PM)
FREEDOM WALK (5:00 PM)

BENJAMIN T. MANGLONA
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ROTA
SEPTEMBER 12, 2016 (5:00 PM)

FIESTA GROUNDS, TINIAN
SEPTEMBER 6, 2016 (10:00 AM)

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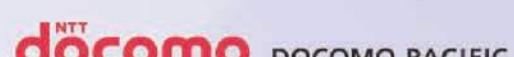
Life In Motion



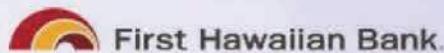
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council and Statewide Independent Living Council will jointly hold their FY 2016 Fourth General Membership Meeting on Friday, September 16, 2016 from 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the Pacific Islands Club – Charley's Cabaret. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of September 16, 2016
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes:
 - A. SRC Third General Membership Meeting Minutes of August 31, 2016
 - B. SILC Third General Membership Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2016
- V. Reports
 - A. SRC Chairperson
 - B. Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Committee Chairperson
 - C. Employment and Marketing Committee Chairperson
 - D. Transition and Assistive Technology Committee Chairperson
 - E. Transportation, Housing, and Advocacy Committee Chairperson
 - F. SILC Chairperson
 - G. CLI Executive Director
 - H. OVR Director
- VI. Action Items
 - A. Review/Approval of SRC FY 2017 Resource Plan
 - B. Review/Approval of SILC FY 2017 Resource Plan
 - C. SRC FY 2017 Election of Officers
- VII. Consumer Forum
- VIII. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- IX. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodation such as large print or sign language interpreter, are asked to call Elvira Seman at 322-6537/38 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) four days before the meeting.

/s/ PAMELA C. SABLÁN
SRC Chairperson

/s/ EMETERIO S. FITIAL
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)/Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), Administration for Community Living (ACL).

Marines to train on Tinian

DEDEDO, Guam—Marines and sailors from III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) are scheduled to participate in exercise, Valiant Shield 2016, on Tinian from Sept. 15 to 27. The purpose of this exercise is to train a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) to provide a full-spectrum crisis response in remote environments.

Exercises on the island will include reconnaissance, boat raids, airfield seizure, and use of air support. During a portion of the exercise, the Marine Corps will conduct a helicopter insert of approximately 200 Marines and sailors on Baker Runway, North Field using MV-22 Osprey tiltrotors and CH-53 Super Sea

Stallion helicopters against an opposition force of U.S. Navy Seabees. This is the culminating event of the exercise and showcases one of the core competencies of the United States Marine Corps—the ability to seize and defend advanced airfields to support naval campaigns.

Marines primarily from Futenma, Okinawa and Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii will comprise the forces for most of the MAGTF conducting the exercise.

Residents of the islands can expect to see Marines periodically throughout the exercise, and are likely to notice military helicopters and ground vehicles operating in the area.

"We must continuously pre-

pare, plan and train to remain the Marine Corps' forward deployed, force in readiness," said Col. David Krebs, 1st Marine Air Wing Chief of Staff. "This location provides tremendous training opportunities and Valiant Shield is one of our best opportunities to train and plan for a variety of contingency missions."

Media interested in covering the helicopter insert portion of this exercise are asked to contact GySgt Justin Park at 671-487-1012 or via email at Justin.park@fe.navy.mil.

For more information on the mission and history of III MEF visit the unit's websites at <http://www.iimef.marines.mil/> or <https://www.facebook.com/iimef/>. (PR)



SEMAN TAKES THE LEAD

ERWIN ENCINARES

Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Richard Seman, right, takes part in the aerobics session before reading the proclamation declaring September as Childhood Obesity Awareness Month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Sept. 2.

SI-NMI Program meeting to highlight Crime Stoppers

Soroptimist International-Northern Mariana Islands meets quarterly with another local organization to learn more about what they do, and about how our organizations may benefit one another.

This month SI-NMI highlights CNMI Crime Stoppers Program. This organization is a dedicated group of volunteers whose mission is to provide a method for local law enforcement to receive information on crimes. These efforts increase tips, which in turn increase arrests in our community.

Crime Stopper programs are organized as a non-profit organization. A volunteer board of directors provides di-

rection as to the financial and promotional activities of the program. The Crime Stoppers program is funded by private donations, grants and fund raising. The reward money paid out by the program is

from the fund raising and donations from concerned citizens and businesses.

Crime Stoppers relies on cooperation between the police, the media, and the general community to provide a flow of information about crime and criminals. By guaranteeing a caller's anonymity Crime Stoppers allows the caller to give information in a positive and confidential atmosphere without the prospect of retribution. By offering

cash rewards for information leading to indictment or arrests, the program encourages otherwise reluctant callers to provide information.

For questions about the NMI Crime Stopper program, contact NMI Crime Stopper President Ivan Ilmov at 670-989-1050 or visit www.nmicrimestoppers.net.

A buffet lunch will be held on Thursday, Sept. 15, from 11:30am to 1pm at Giovanni's Restaurant in Hyatt Regency. Advance reservations are required. Cost is \$25 per person. Tickets are available at Paradise Dental Center (Middle Road) telephone number (670) 783-1900, or by contacting any member of SI-NMI. (PR)

122 Solomon islanders graduate from APTC



Australia-Pacific Technical College graduates pose for a group photo after the commencement ceremony held last Sept. 6 at Maranatha Hall in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

More than 120 students of the Australia-Pacific Technical College (APTC) were awarded qualifications in 13 skills areas at the APTC graduation ceremony held last Sept. 6 at Maranatha Hall in Honiara.

To date, over 1,000 Solomon Islanders have graduated with APTC qualifications. APTC is an innovative development project funded by the Australian Government, delivering Australian-standard skills and qualifications for a wide range of vocational careers for skilled workers across the Pacific.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony, keynote speaker Selina Boso, permanent secretary for the Ministry of Rural Development, said, "the graduation ceremony is very special as we witness the payback of hard work, perseverance, commitment, courage and extra efforts displayed by 122 special people in their strive for higher education, which in the end, contributes to improved skills in productivity and livelihoods of oneself, families, communities and the Solomon Islands as a country."

She urged the graduates to make best use of the skills they obtained during their training at APTC and contribute towards generating employment, especially in the rural economy, to achieve economic growth and development in the Solomon Islands.

A particular highlight of the graduation was the presentation of certificates to more than fifty emerging leaders from the Solomon Islands private sector for completing Australian qualifications in leadership and management, training and assessment, hospitality, and business skills as part of the Australia funded Specialty Skills for Business Program.

Counsellor for Human Development for the Australian

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in the Solomon Islands, Melissa Stutsel, congratulated the new graduates in her closing address.

"Australia developed the Specialty Skills for Business program after hearing from the Solomon Islands business community that it wanted more opportunities to build its workforce capacity" Stutsel said.

"We listened closely to understand the key skill areas that the private sector wanted to build, and I am pleased to

see that those conversations have led us here today, where we can celebrate the attainment of these Australian qualifications by your staff, in these priority skills areas"

One particular skill area which the Specialty Skills for Business program addressed was in leadership and management, with over forty private sector staff completing the Australia Certificate IV in Leadership and Management, the first time such a course has been delivered in Solomon Islands.

Continuing APTC's proud tradition of supporting equal access to high quality vocational training for men and women, a total of 54 women graduated in a range of courses, including Electrotechnology Electrician and Plumbing at the ceremony.

APTC is also working with the Australian Government's Skills for Economic Growth Program to support further development of the skills sector in Solomon Islands and continues to collaborate with the

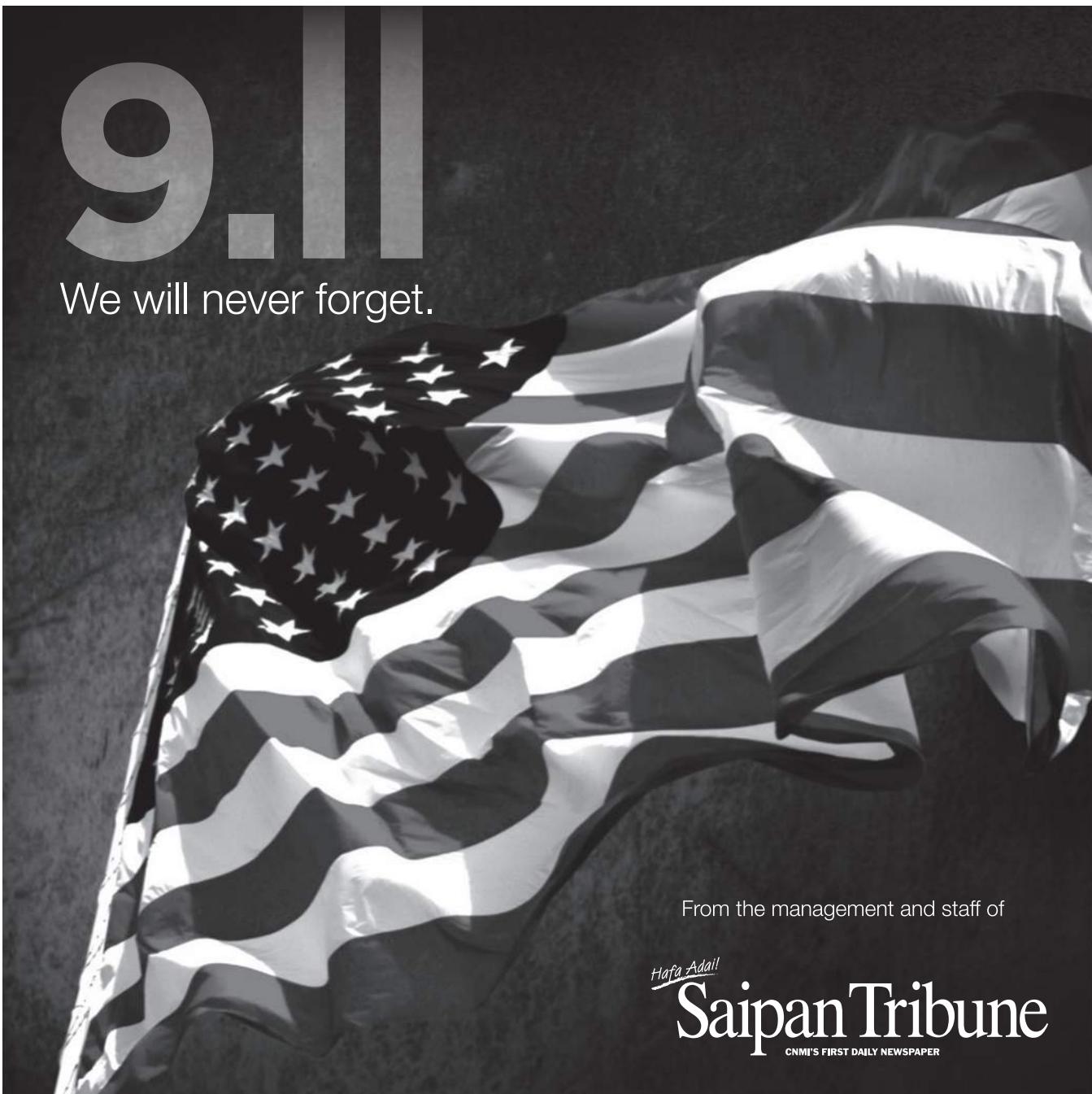
Solomon Islands Government and TVET providers to deliver high quality training to Solomon Islanders.

APTC will continue to deliver a range of courses both in Solomon Islands and at its five other campus countries throughout the Pacific over the coming years.

For more information on APTC and its courses, check out www.aptc.edu.au or visit the APTC office in Point Cruz, across from ITA Hardware. (PR)

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COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAI PAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CAR RENTAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-13**.

One (1) original and four (4) copies of the sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, on or before **2:00 PM, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2016**, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of the construction of a new car rental building roof repairs and miscellaneous improvements, all in accordance with the plans and specifications.

Bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Project is being funded by Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project shall be **THREE HUNDRED (300) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages shall be imposed in the amount of **SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$600.00)** per day if the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Saipan Airport Conference Room, Commonwealth Ports Authority Office, Saipan at 10:00 am, September 30, 2016, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will be followed by the pre-bid conference. All prospective bidders are required to attend the pre-bid meeting.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, seven (7) days prior to the date designated above for the bid opening.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are encouraged to use the CD bid schedule form. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-24 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Non-segregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **five percent (5%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Acting Executive Director

Date: September 3, 2016



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified bidders to submit their bids for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAI PAN INTERNATIONAL AND COMMUTER TERMINALS EIGHT (8) A/C UNIT REPLACEMENT, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-16**.

Sealed bids will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **2:00 PM, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2016**, at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of replacement of eight (8) air-conditioning units located at the Saipan International and Saipan Commuter Terminals. Procurement includes removal and disposal of existing units scheduled for replacement.

The Project is being funded by Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for installation of eight units shall be **TWO HUNDRED TEN (210) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages shall be imposed in the amount of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)** per day if the commissioning of the A/C units is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section 70-26 of the specifications. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Non-Collusive Affidavit" and "Designation of Subcontractors" as contained in the bid documents, with the submission of the Bid.

Bids and contract documents including specifications may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **FIFTY DOLLARS (\$50.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

There is no pre-bid conference for this project. Bidders will be responsible for scheduling a site inspection with CPA.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least four (4) days prior to the bid opening.

Each bid shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are encouraged to use the CD bid schedule form. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either bid bond from a CPA approved listed surety company, a certified check or a cashier's check in the amount not less than five percent (5%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Acting Executive Director

Date: August 31, 2016

LOCAL

ESFDB pays tribute to 9/11 victims and heroes



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

San Francisco de Borja Parish Pastoral Council chair Edward C. Barcenas (back center) poses with third to eighth grade students commemorating 9/11.

Fifteen years ago on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, terror groups hijacked four planes in a coordinated terrorist attack.

Two planes crashed into the Twin Towers in New York City, a third plane flew into the Pentagon building in Washington, D.C., and the final plane was brought down by passengers in a field in Pennsylvania. Thousands of people died in the attacks, including civilians, military personnel in the Pentagon and the emergency fire fighters, police and medical workers who arrived at the scene.

The attack had a profound impact on the United States and the rest of the world. The U.S. Congress designated Sept. 11 as "Patriot Day" to remember and honor those who died. On this day, flags are set to half-staff and many observe a moment of silence at 8:46am, the time when the first plane hit the Twin Towers.

To commemorate 9/11 or Patriot Day, the students from grade levels third to eighth grade were presented with lectures and did prayer services to honor local residents who are involved in

any way during and after the terrorist attacks.

The students were graced by the presence of U.S. Army veteran and San Francisco de Borja Parish Council chair Edward C. Barcenas.

Barcenas spoke to the students about his role after the 9/11 attacks.

"I was deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq to fight the war on terror," said Barcenas.

"I was upset because our country was attacked and we need to stop this terrorist from hurting innocent people," added Barcenas.

"These week our students are learning history and are honoring the men and women who died on September 11th, and the men and women serving in the armed forces, and to honor their families for the grace and the dignity they have demonstrated throughout these fifteen years," said administrator and principal Carmen H. Atalig.

"I thank chairman [Ed] Barcenas for coming and talking to the students about his participation in the 9/11 events," added Atalig.

"It is very important we always remember the significance of their acts of courage and sacrifice," said student body council president Jeremy John Atalig II.

"I salute our military heroes in our Rota Catholic faith community like my uncle TJ Atalig, Edward Barcenas, and our teacher [Mr. Ed] Edward Maratita, Jr.," added Atalig II.

"Fifteen years ago, we watched as a horrific tragedy unfolded before us. Our world had changed forever, and the future seemed uncertain. Borders are now secured than ever. Yet, despite all the chaos of 9/11, one thing was clear, no act of violence can ever break the will and unity of the American people. Instead, we came together as one nation and fight the war on terror," said board chair Edward Maratita Jr.

Maratita also stated, "In commemorating 9/11, let us hold our loved ones closer, remember all those we lost, and reflect on the values at the core of our culture and customs as one family."

The administration, faculty, staff, and board of directors would like to extend their appreciation to chair Edward C. Barcenas. (PR)

Silent No More to present Blas with signed petitions

GUAM—Senator Frank F. Blas, Jr. will be presented with petitions today in favor of his legislation that would lift all civil statute of limitations on cases involving child sexual abuse.

The presentation by the group Silent No More will take place today, Thursday, Sept. 8th, at 10am in front of the Guam

Legislature in Hagåtña. Silent No More will be joined by members of the Concerned Catholics of Guam, the Laity Forward Movement and family members of the victims of sex abuse.

The petitions contain more than 3,000 signatures of island residents who support Bill No. 326-33

(COR). Senator Blas authored the legislation in May of this year and the bill has been the subject of several public hearings. Senator Blas is hopeful that the bill will be placed on the agenda for this month's legislative session.

For more information about today's presentation, please contact the Office of Senator Frank F. Blas, Jr., at 475-2527 or via email at frank.blasjr@gmail.com. (PR)

Bordallo urges H-2B relief from USCIS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo last Wednesday wrote to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Leon Rodriguez to urge him to provide immediate regulatory relief to address the continued H-2B challenges in Guam. Bordallo reiterated her concern that the high rates of H-2B renewal denials are impacting Guam's workforce and will adversely affect Guam's construction and health industries, among others, including ongoing and future projects related to the military build-up and associated civilian infrastructure projects.

Bordallo has worked to address these challenges through federal legislation but believes that immediate action by USCIS is required to ensure that Guam continues to have an adequate workforce to meet current and future demand for labor. She underscored that language that she included in the House-passed National



Bordallo

Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 should indicate Congressional intent for the H-2B program on Guam moving forward, and urged Director Rodriguez to use regulatory authority to defer action on H-2B cases on Guam. She noted that stopping projects because of a lack of a qualified workforce from the denial of H-2B visas could negatively impact the realignment of Marines to Guam as well as jeopardize local civilian infrastructure projects.

"I am deeply concerned by the continued denials of H-2B visas in Guam and the adverse impact they are having on our community. While I have appreciated the dialogue I have had with USCIS to address this issue, more needs to be done administratively to ensure we continue to have a viable workforce that is able to meet cur-

rent labor demands. I am especially concerned by recent news that Core Tech will be sending nearly 400 workers back to their country because of denials of their visa renewals as well as by Guam

Department of Labor's estimate that less than 100 H-visa workers will be in Guam at the end of the year.

"I continue to work to resolve this matter both administratively and through legislation, and I have urged USCIS Director Rodriguez to defer action or to provide continued employment authorization on H-2B visas on Guam in order to provide temporary relief until language I included in the House-passed NDAA is enacted into law. I believe this is an appropriate step that will provide some immediate relief to local businesses and ensure we have an adequate workforce present on Guam." (PR)

Contest winners announced on Int'l Literacy Day

SUVA, Fiji—Alexandria Slaven of Samoa penned the words "illiteracy kills dreams" in her winning letter for a Pacific Community (SPC) multimedia competition on why reading matters.

Miss Slaven, 14, is one of three winners announced today by SPC to mark the 50th Anniversary of International Literacy Day.

"I love to read because it takes me places. We need to be obsessed as a nation to teach our children how to read, to minimize poverty and illiteracy. Let's make the world a better place," Miss Slaven wrote in her winning letter.

SPC launched the competition to promote the benefits of literacy among Pacific children and youth following the release in June of the latest Pacific Islands Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (PILNA) which revealed cause for concern with literacy among Year 4 and Year 6 students.

In the assessment, which involved 45,000 students from some 700 schools in 13 countries, just 46 percent of Year 4 students and 46 percent of Year 6 students met or exceeded the regional literacy benchmark.

Young people were invited to share a story in the form of a letter, email, storybook, poster or video about how reading has helped them.

The director of SPC's Educational Quality and Assessment Programme, Michelle Belisle, said the Pacific-wide competi-

tion drew attention and participation from New Caledonia, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa and Tonga.

"The entries showcased how young people have an understanding of the importance of reading and how it contributes to their current well-being and its advantages as an avenue for further education and consequently employment," Ms Belisle said.

The latest PILNA was coordinated by SPC in partnership with the New Zealand Aid Programme, and supported by Pacific Islands' education ministries, teachers and parents.

Global celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of International Literacy Day are being led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and highlight advances in literacy and its effects on everyday people.

Despite some areas of concern, the Pacific is making incremental advances in literacy, as shown in the PILNA report, Belisle said. (PR)

BOH to present at the Barclays Global Financial Services Conference

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Bank of Hawaii Corporation (NYSE:BOH) yesterday announced that chairman, president, and chief executive officer Peter S. Ho will present at the Barclays 2016 Global Financial Services Conference, which will take place September 12-14, 2016 at the Sheraton New York Times Square in New York City.

Bank of Hawaii Corporation is scheduled to present at 9am

(Eastern Time) on Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2016. Barclays will offer a live webcast of the presentation on the website located at https://cc.talkpoint.com/barc002/091216a_is/?entity=29_VVFH8BB.

A replay of the webcast will be available approximately one hour following the conclusion of the live conference. A replay will also be available via the Investor Relations link of the Company's website, www.boh.com. (PR)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-16-023

ISLAND WIDE ROAD RESTORATION FOR WATERLINE REPAIRS, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Road Restoration for Waterline Repairs, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of excavation, placing of flowable fill and asphalt to replace pavement areas cut by CUC to repair waterlines. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC and the Department of Public Works. The duration of the contract is one year (365 calendar days) from date of award with an option to extend for an additional year if exercised by CUC.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **September 22, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Seven (7) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Island Wide Road Restoration for Waterline Repairs, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 12, 2016**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bids shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders.

The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **September 26, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Robert Malate, CUC Water & Wastewater Engineer, via email - robert.malate@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S Administrative Support Assistant, via email - marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM
Purchasing Officer



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works**

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Division of Solid Waste Management under the Department of Public Works would like to inform the general public, particularly commercial refuse haulers, that P.L. 6-30 "Commonwealth Solid Waste Management Act of 1989" as amended by P.L. 11-103 (effective Sept. 9, 1999) and P.L. 13-42 (effective Dec. 19, 2002) governs the collection, disposal and management of solid waste in the CNMI. Furthermore 2 CMC s/s 3514(a) of Chapter 155-30 (Administrative Code) clearly specifies the following:

2 CMC s/s 3514(a) empowers DPW to collect and dispose of solid waste as provided in the Act, assess fees by regulation for collection and disposal of solid waste and establish rules and regulations to enforce its powers.

In addition, P.L. 11-22 "Commonwealth Recycling Act of 1999," an act to establish a program to divert recyclable material from CNMI landfills and for other purpose. Section 2 (Findings and Purpose) paragraph four partially states "This Act will require shared responsibility and cooperation between the Division of Solid Waste Management, the Department of Public Works and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

Now, therefore, effective immediately, DPW Division of Solid Waste Management will enforce restrictions of recyclable materials and non-acceptance of prohibited hazardous items to be disposed of at the Marpi Landfill by both residential and commercial users. All recyclable materials and residential hazardous items must be disposed of at the Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station and shall be directed as such. Commercial waste haulers must ensure to inform their clients of this policy prior to providing services. Mandatory load inspections will be conducted. Likewise, commercially generated hazardous materials are not accepted at the Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station and commercial generator(s) must contact the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality for further information regarding disposal.

Recyclable and Prohibited Hazardous materials are as follows:

- Corrugated Cardboards/ Office Papers/ Newspapers/ etc.
- Aluminum cans and foils (clean)
- Plastic bottles and containers (clean)
- Glass/Food and beverage containers (clean)
- Scrap Metals
- White Goods (refrigerators, ranges, washers, dryers, water heaters, etc.)
- Tires
- E-waste (TV, computers, microwave ovens, cell phones, other electronic/battery operated devices, fax, printers, typewriters, etc.)
- Lead Acid and computer back up batteries
- Paints (oil and water base), Paint Thinners, solvents
- Fluorescent bulbs
- Coolants
- Household cleaning supplies (muriatic acid, chlorine bleach, etc.)
- Pesticides

For additional information, inquiries and available private recycling and hazardous handling companies, please call Mr. Enrique Dela Cruz Director of Division of Solid Waste Management at tel. nos. 322-2745 & 322-2760 or fax to 322-2762

Tel No's: (670) 235 – 5827 / 9570 Fax: (670) 235 - 6346

Polynesia, Japan to perform at Int'l Fest tomorrow



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Chuukese community performs at the International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 3, 2016. The festival will be held every Saturday from 5pm to 10pm in September at Paseo de Marianas.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bangladesh and other ethnic cuisine is served at the International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 3, 2016.

For the first time this year, the communities of Japan and Polynesia will take the stage at the 2016 International Festival of Cultures tomorrow, Sept. 10, joining a growing list of cultures that have performed at the free event each week.

This Saturday's festival kicks off the stage entertainment with the Japanese community at 5:45pm, followed by the Chamorro community at 6pm, the Carolinian community at 6:30pm and 9:30pm, Chuukese community at 7pm and 8pm, the Filipino community at 7:30pm, and the Korean community at 8:15pm. The highly anticipated Fiji/Tonga/Samoa

community performs at 8:45pm, followed by the Tahiti/Marquesas/Cook Islands performance at 9pm.

Other cultures participating in the festival include Marshall Islands, Bangladesh, Korea, and the Federated States of Micronesia. The festival is held every Saturday in September from 5pm to 10pm at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

"The festival just keeps getting more exciting each week," said MVA Community Projects Specialist and event coordinator Ryan Calvo. "People can sample the roast pig cooked on site, learn coconut frond-weaving, watch pandanas mat-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Samoa/Tonga/Fiji community serves young and mature coconut at the International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 3, 2016.

weaving, try ethnic dances, and last week, beat the Korean drum. That doesn't include all the delicious food the various cultures are serving up.

This year, the MVA and participating cultures are putting equal emphasis on stage entertainment and hands-on experiences. The festival also includes arts and crafts and ethnic cuisine.

The festival is sponsored by PDM Promoters, Team PDI, Div. of Parks & Recreations, Dept. of Public Safety, Dept. of Public Works, Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, KKMP, Best Sunshine International, Ltd., and Power 99. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Children of the Samoa/Fiji/Tonga community pose with a festival-goer at the International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 3, 2016.


COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
 Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
 P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
 Phone: (670) 237-65001 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
 E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticon.com
 Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES**
**TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
AIRCRAFT RESCUE FIREFIGHTING (ARFF) BUILDING RENOVATIONS**
 Project No. CPA-TA-003-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for renovations to the Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) Building at the Tinian International Airport, Tinian Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted in writing and mailed to Mr. Christopher S. Tenorio, Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950-1055, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wrptra@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, September 9, 2016.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. A/E design experience in similar scoped projects in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island – (35 points);
2. A/E Design experience related to projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – (25 points);
3. The general reputation of the Consultant in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the Consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
4. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time – (15 points); and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than 4:30 p.m. (CHST), FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2016. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority:

/s/ **CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**
 Acting Executive Director
 Date: August 10, 2016


**NORTHERN MARIANAS
HOUSING CORPORATION**
 P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
 Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhccgov.net

**NOTICE TO NMHC'S HOUSING
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS RECIPIENTS**

According to Article 12(A)(ii) of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's (NMHC) By-Laws, one (1) board member out of the eight (8) total board of directors must be a recipient of one of the housing assistance programs administered by NMHC. If you are a recipient of HUD's Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8), New Construction Program (multifamily under Mihaville or Koblerville), HOME Program, or Neighborhood Stabilization Program and are interested in serving as a board member to assist and guide NMHC in the administration of its housing and community development mandates, please submit a notice of intent along with your background information on or before Friday, September 30, 2016, at NMHC's office in Garapan, Saipan. The NMHC Board of Directors will then select the board member to serve a one (1) year term.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, or Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director.

CENTURY INSURANCE CO., LTD.
 Is inviting qualified individuals to apply
for the following position;

CLAIMS ADJUSTER (1)

The ideal candidate will be responsible in evaluating, monitors and adjust claims in accordance with the Claims Processing and Settlement Procedures; Supervises technical staff to attain optimum efficiency level; Performs claims recovery procedures which might require travelling to Guam from Saipan; Attends directly to claimants and auto shops; Must be a team player and working closely with agents on claims; Generating claims reports and statistics for reinsurance, inter department and management info requirements;

Job Requirements: Hard working, self-motivated team players with excellent communication and time management skills; Preferably at least four (4) years working experience in a non-life insurance company preferable in claims department; Must be a four (4) year college degree holder. Knowledge in automotive damage adjusting and/or estimation; Computer literate on Microsoft Office and Oracle based system program. Customer service and negotiation skills. Preferably a US citizen, local, resident or an immediate relative

Salary ranges between \$7.55 to \$10.00 per hour depending on qualification

If interested, please drop off your application and/or resume at our Human Resources Department Office located at 2/F JP Center, Saipan or fax it to (670) 234-1845 or e-mail it to customerservice@cicspn.com.

To be considered, application must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 21, 2016.

WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Over 70 register for job readiness courses and looking for jobs

Brought to the public by the CNMI Women's Association, a non-profit community organization comprised primarily of volunteers and a staff of two, basic job readiness trainings in work ethics and customer service rolled out on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week capturing 72 Saipan registrants who are primarily unemployed and very hopeful in getting employed.

The work ethics and customer service courses were delivered by the Northern Marianas College Community Development Institute, which were prioritized topics recommended to CWA by prospective employers.

Although CWA's vision is "to ensure that women are fully engaged in the political, economic and social development of our Commonwealth," the organization does not discriminate and helps anyone seeking out their assistance. The CWA is also a sub-grantee of the DCCA Division of Youth Affairs Office's federally funded Community Services Block Grant, which was instrumental in funding the organization's Job Readiness efforts.

With CWA's priority goals focused on education, employment, and training, the organization has been active in the community these past two years, reaching out to underserved and low-income groups primarily, with the aim to assist individuals and families obtain employment, complete their Adult Basic Education, and help clients access various services and resources including Medicaid, WIA, NMTI, to name a few.



CNMI Women's Association job readiness participants, CWA team and board members, and Northern Marianas College Community Development Institute instructor pose for a photo after Day 1 of the training.

With the recent training on Saipan, 72 individuals registered and 54 completed the training. Participants varied in age, comprised of both men and women of diverse ethnicities and nationalities and with different circumstances and backgrounds, but with a common motivation that allowed them to stick the training out and complete the courses.

According to Pattie Mareham, CWA's caseworker and interim program administrator, "the participants came out of the training feeling very excited and motivated knowing they are not alone and are a step closer to getting a job. This is just the beginning so we have a long road ahead of us."

According to T. Wilson, one of the training participants, "after emailing all Saipan representatives, Felicidad Oguimoro and CWA were the only people to respond offering assistance. CWA has been firmly committed to assisting me with obtaining employ-

ment and housing."

CWA welcomes and urges other individuals such as Wilson and many more in need of a job and other dire assistance to reach out to CWA. Aside from receiving a certificate of completion from NMC's CDI Program and gaining background knowledge that will hopefully help participants once employed, part of CWA's efforts involved assisting the participants with putting their resumes together and getting job applications filled out. The organization also identified 17 participants with no high school diploma and hence, assisted all 17 participants fill out applications to enroll at NMC's Adult Basic Education (ABE) program and helped five fill out applications to the Northern Marianas Trades Institute. In fact, CWA coordinated directly with NMC's ABE Program right after the training in order to assist the participants with no high school diploma.

mas and hence, have already scheduled an ABE orientation date with NMC on September 20th, 2016.

According to Roxanne Diaz, the project lead that CWA recently contracted, "the next step CWA will be taking is to package all the applications and present them to the prospective employers and entities, which CWA will be closely communicating and following up with in order to further assist clients, especially those without telephones and transportation."

Prior to the start of last week's job readiness classes, CWA has been actively reaching out via PTO meetings at schools, the Food Stamp office and on the media targeting unemployed individuals to take advantage of the program. According to Diaz, "aside from its participant recruitment efforts, CWA has also been reaching out to prospective employers such as PIC, BSI, Coral Ocean Point,

Triple J Enterprises, to name a few, in order to obtain respective job applications, identify processes in transmitting and following up on applications, and to better understand employer expectations, challenges and needs in hopes to form more formal partnerships with each in the near future. CWA continues to reach out to more employers on all three islands and encourages more employers to contact and engage with CWA as well."

Again, the job readiness program is one of the many opportunities by CWA aimed to actively recruit, train, secure employment for our people. It is an ongoing program and our goal is to ensure that our clients are job ready, dependable, employable, and employed long-term. The next training sites and dates will be on Sept. 13 and 14 on Rota and Sept. 15 and 16 on Tinian.

CWA encourages the public to avail to their services even if one is not able to attend the

trainings. CWA is reaching out to anyone in our community looking for a job, wants to work but may lack basic work skills, wants to work but lacks a high school diploma, or just wants to get more information on what CWA can offer to help them access employment and obtain the basic skills necessary to succeed in the workplace.

The CWA team stands ready to assist with job applications and other services at the Garapan Community Development Center (behind the Garapan Basketball Court on Beach Road), Monday-Friday, from 9am to 5pm.

The CWA and its board members (Rep. Felicidad T. Oguimoro, Doris R. Drew, Julie O. Manglona, Jacqueline Che, Erna Ngirongor, and Connie Villagomez) would also like to recognize key donors and partners that generously contributed in this month's Job Readiness program: Karidat, Carolinian Affairs Office, Rep. Felicidad Oguimoro's Office, PSS, the Nutrition Assistance Program, the Northern Marianas College (Tinian), the Rota Mayor's Office, and Sorensen Media Group. CWA also acknowledges the good work of the DCCA Division of Youth Services Office, which oversees the Community Services Block Grant that funded the job readiness program.

To learn more, contact CWA at 233-9411, 484-6976, visit us at @CNMIWomen on Facebook, on our website at www.CNMIWomen.org or email us at p.mareham@cnmiwomen.org. (PR)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB16-DPW/ED-168**

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

**"LEASE OF A CLASS "H" VEHICLE (4X2 PICK-UP TRUCK)
FOR 24 MONTHS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS,
ENERGY DIVISION"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB16-DPW/ED-169**

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

**"LEASE OF A CLASS "D" VEHICLE (4 DOOR SEDAN)
FOR 24 MONTHS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS,
ENERGY DIVISION"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB16-TDLNR-167 – CIF TINIAN**

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF A CLASS "I" (SUV) VEHICLE FOR TINIAN
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JOEY P. SAN NICLAS
MAYOR OF TINIAN & AGUIGUAN

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ GUILLERMO C. BORJA
RESIDENT DEPARTMENT HEAD, TDLNR

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB16-DLNR/DFW-166 (A) (B)**

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF LARGE FORMAT PRINTER (PLOTTER) AND A LARGE
FORMAT SCANNER FOR DLNR – DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RICHARD B. SEMAN
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB16-DPS/RBS-162 (A-C)**

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"(A) – PURCHASE OF TWO (2) 4X4 (4 DOORS) PICK-UP TRUCK,
(B) – PURCHASE OF ONE (1) SUV 4X4, 8 CYLINDER AND (C) – PURCHASE
OF ONE (1) SUV AWD, 4 CYLINDER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SAFETY – RETCREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB16-DPS/PATROL-163**

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) CLASS "I" VEHICLES
(5 DOOR UTILITY VEHICLE / ALL WHEEL DRIVE) FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – PATROL SECTION"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S

BSI helps restore Carolinian Utt



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

A Best Sunshine International, Ltd. Corporate Social Responsibility staff works on the framework of the smaller hut at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.



BSI-CSR staffers work towards building a stronger framework for the smaller utt.

Best Sunshine International, Ltd. has reached out to repair and rebuild the worn-down smaller hut at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan, the traditional storied place that continually serves multiple functions of the Refaluwasch community and the community in general.

While the largest hut at the Carolinian Utt site continues to stand strong, the smaller hut has caved in due to harsh weather conditions. The structure was built over a year ago and has since been repaired twice according to the Carolinian Affairs Office.

"On behalf of the Carolinian Affairs Office, we really appreciate BSI-CSR extending help. We don't really have the manpower right now so we really appreciate the help we can get," said John Tagabuel, executive assistant for the Carolinian Affairs Office.

BSI's Corporate Social Responsibility is spearheading the reconstruction after noticing the dilapidation.

The repair and reconstruction of the hut is good news for CAO, which is preparing for this month's Cultural Heritage celebration.

"The things we do here on the grounds are focused more towards the community. When I spoke with one of the CSR staff, he pointed out that he could help us. I told him that repairing the smaller utt would be [a] nice uplift in time for the Cultural Heritage Month events," Tagabuel added. "I want to thank BSI's management for extending their courtesy and help that we need."

BSI-CSR executive director Geri Dela Cruz acknowledged that the restoration of the utt is a critical aspect in preserving the culture of the islands.

"We at Best Sunshine International truly believe in keeping the Chamorro and Caro-



Working alongside each other in restoring the smaller hut at the Carolinian Utt.



Best Sunshine CSR staff commit to restoring the collapsed hut at the Carolinian Utt.



It is a fun and a worthwhile work for BSI-CSR staff who takes part in helping preserve the facility.



Trying to fasten together the roof structure after it was rebuilt from the ground up.



Best Sunshine CSR staff Fuji Suel weaves his third coconut frond for the hut that CSR is restoring at the Carolinian Utt.

linian culture alive. We would like to see this utt restored so that all can use it," executive director Dela Cruz noted.

She added, "Being that September is Cultural Heritage

Month, putting out resources into restoring the utt at this time couldn't be better."

Akin to this month's celebration, Best Sunshine's CSR team will also be assisting



Working on the delicate weaving of coconut fronds.

the Cultural Heritage Month Steering Committee with the slated Family Fun Day event.

"BSI-CSR wanted to ensure that the fallen utt is restored and safe to use in time

for the occasion," Dela Cruz pointed out.

After securing an approval from the Carolinian Affairs Office, the BSI-CSR team

See BSI on Next Page



Working on the other side of the roof.

Business

Say goodbye to the iPhone's headphone jack

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Apple's latest iPhone may be more notable for what's missing than what's been added, as the consumer tech giant tries to revive demand for its top-selling product and nudge consumers closer to its vision of a wireless world.

That's a world where, in Apple's view, consumers will use the same wireless ear buds to shift seamlessly from listening to music on their iPhone to talking with their Apple Watch and other gadgets made by the California tech giant.

The iPhone 7 and 7 Plus unveiled Wednesday come with a faster processor, longer battery life and better cameras—including a new dual lens system in the pricier 7 Plus model that provides higher quality zooming. But the new phones won't have the analog headphone jack that's been a staple for decades in just about every consumer electronics device that can play audio.

Apple is betting its legions of loyal fans will embrace the shift to digital headsets that use wireless connections. Or—if they insist on sticking with their old ways—that they won't mind using a new style of earbuds that plug into the iPhone's "Lightning" charging port.



The lightning port of an iPhone 7 is shown during an event to announce new Apple products on Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016, in San Francisco. AP

CUTTING THE CORD

The redesigned earbuds—with cord—will be included with the new iPhones. Also in the box: an adapter that will let older headphones plug into the digital charging port. But Apple would clearly prefer to push consumers to make the leap into what it envisions as a "wireless future."

"The reason to move on is courage," said Philip Schiller, Apple's senior vice president of worldwide marketing, who spoke during the company's fall product

event. "The courage to move on and do something new that will benefit all of us."

As part of the transition, Apple also is introducing wireless "AirPods" that will sell for \$160. They're powered by an Apple-designed processor and special software that Schiller said will let users easily sync the wireless buds to their iPhone, Apple Watch and other Apple devices. Apple is also promising a new line of high-end wireless speakers from its Beats division.

Getting rid of the 3.5 milli-

meter headphone jack helped Apple make room for a second iPhone speaker designed for playing stereo sound. The iPhone 7 is also water resistant, a popular feature that rivals such as Samsung Electronics have already introduced in some phones.

Schiller portrayed the move to drop the headphone jack as a step toward improving user experience. "It makes no sense to tether ourselves with cables to our mobile devices," he said during the company's annual fall event.

Apple has previously reduced the number of ports in its popular line of MacBook computers, while encouraging people to use wireless services for transferring files and streaming data. By promoting wireless ear buds, analysts say, Apple may also hope to get more people using streaming services on the Apple Watch as well.

APPLE'S CHALLENGE

The company is trying to reverse its first decline in iPhone sales since the company's late founder, Steve Jobs, unveiled the trendsetting device in 2007. It's also seen a drop in demand for the Apple Watch since its introduction last year.

While the company sold nearly 92 million iPhones in the first six months of this year, that's about 15 percent fewer than the same period last year. Industry analysts say the iPhone 6S and 6S Plus, which Apple introduced last fall, didn't offer many compelling new features over the previous year's models.

With the iPhone 7 and 7 Plus, Apple may face a similar challenge.

Apple delivered virtually all the features that had been promised in news leaks over recent weeks, but analyst Bob O'Donnell of Technaly-

sis Research said the changes from last year's iPhones were "modest" overall. The dual-lens camera in the iPhone 7 Plus may be impressive, he said, but it's only available in the larger and more expensive phone, limiting its appeal.

"Smartphone advancements are slowing down as the market is maturing, so minor things like look and feel get more attention," O'Donnell said, pointing out how Apple spent several minutes of its presentation extolling the virtues of an optional "jet black" finish for the new phones.

Other smartphone makers are also having trouble dazzling consumers with new advances. But Forrester Research analyst Julie Ask figures consumers will appreciate the faster chip and other improvements once they try the new iPhones. And she's not worried about any backlash over elimination of the hardware jack.

"Apple has a very long history of removing features we all thought were necessary, and then convincing us that we didn't need them," said Ask, noting that Apple paved the way in phasing out the use of floppy discs and optical drives in computers. "Three months later, it will be, 'Why did we ever have that?'"



Teamwork in rebuilding and preserving the beauty of the utt.

BSI

From Page 24

immediately began this week

repairing entirely the structure. The work includes the removal of the worn-down roof and replacing it with a new one, restructuring its skeletal

framework by ensuring that it is sturdier and would withstand the island's fluctuating weather.

The Garapan site of the Car-

olinian Utt has been a symbol of the storied Refaluwasch culture and community in the CNMI. Today, it continues to be a place for celebration,



Ensuring that the braces of the hut are secured.

meetings, educational programs, and other activities.

The utt is also being utilized as a site for demonstrating the correct traditional work in

preparing the mwars, beading, and coconut husking, among other educational outreach of the Refaluwasch community through the CAO. (PR)

Nation

Now adults, children of 9/11 draw inspiration from tragedy

NEW YORK (AP)—They were kids, or not even born yet, when America's heart broke for them.

More than 3,000 children and young adults lost a parent in the deadliest terror attack on American soil, instantly becoming known as the children of 9/11.

As the 15th anniversary of the attacks approaches, these children are now adults or nearly so, and their Sept. 11 legacy is now theirs to shape.

Many have been guided by a determination to honor the parent they lost or the awareness they so painfully gained. And they have done it in ways as varied as working with refugees, studying the forces that led to the attacks and pursuing a parent's unrealized sports dream.

Here are some of their stories.

'THINGS KIND OF COME FULL CIRCLE'

It's Lindsay Weinberg's job to find and notify families whose loved ones have died, sometimes under violent circumstances. It's a job she's particularly prepared to do.

"I'm giving them among the worst news they can receive, and I've received it," she says.

Weinberg was 12 when the New York City medical examiner's office, where she now works, told her family in 2002 that it had identified her father's remains among the victims of 9/11.

"It adds to the amount of empathy that I can have," says the 26-year-old, whose father, Steven Weinberg, was an accounting manager killed at the World Trade Center.

After recognizing how forensic science helped provide answers for her family, Lindsay got a master's degree in it, and is now an outreach investigator. She hasn't worked on the continuing analysis of the more than 21,000 bits of bone found at ground zero.

She says her connection to 9/11 is "not something that I lead with, personally or professionally." But working at the medical examiner's office, she says, shows "how things kind of come full circle."

'I THOUGHT, 'WHAT WAS IT WE SHARED THE MOST?' AND IT WAS WRESTLING'

Thea Trinidad's pulse thumped as she walked out on the floor of Madison Square Garden as part of pro wrestler Adam Rose's entourage in 2014. It was the first time she'd been there in her own wrestling ca-

reer. And the first time since she'd been there with her dad.

Looking up at the seats where they always sat "was like a punch to the heart," she says.

She was 10 when she overheard her father calling her mother to say goodbye from the trade center's north tower, where he worked as a telecommunications analyst. Growing up, she pondered how to honor him.

"I thought: 'What was it we shared the most?' And it was wrestling," she recalls.

Michael Trinidad was a former high school wrestler who didn't flinch when his tomboy daughter did leaping moves off the furniture. In fact, "he'd say, 'No, you're doing it wrong—let me show you,'" says Thea, 25, who lives in Tampa, Florida.

At first, the 5-foot-tall wrestler didn't let on about her dad as she backflipped and body-slapped under the monikers Divina Fly and Rosita. (She now uses her own name). She didn't want anyone thinking she was making a play for sympathy.

After her story emerged, Pro Wrestling Illustrated magazine named her Inspirational Wrestler of the Year in 2011.

She says she feels her father's spirit every time she goes into the ring.

"This one's for you, Dad," she tells herself. "Protect me out there."

'POSITIVE, PERSONAL GROWTH OUT OF SOMETHING THAT WAS SO HORRIFIC'

Several years after 9/11, Michael Massaroli came across a plastic bin filled with condolence messages.

They had come from people around the country and world, many of them strangers, after the attacks killed his father and namesake, an investment executive. Michael was 6. His widowed mother had just given birth to a baby girl two months earlier.

"Hearing how people were so selfless and so caring to us really made me want to try to do something, career-wise, that I thought would help other people," he says.

He decided that would be public service, since he was already interested in politics. By high school, he was interning for a state assemblyman.

Now 21 and newly graduated from George Washington University, he got his first job working at a Washington firm that helps political campaigns handle their finances properly.



He sees himself eventually working in government as an adviser or aide.

"I really try and at least get positive personal growth out of something that was so horrific," he says, "rather than let it break me down."

'THE LOVE AND THE HERITAGE COMES THROUGH'

Anjunelly Jean-Pierre once had her future all figured out. She planned on joining the military and eventually becoming the doctor or lawyer her mother envisioned.

Then her mother, Maxima Jean-Pierre, was killed at the World Trade Center, where the immigrant from the Dominican Republic managed an executive cafe.

Over the next few years, Anjunelly grieved, regrouped and decided she wanted to do what her mother did. Recalling the Sunday dinners that filled the house with friends and family, "I saw how food brings people together," says Anjunelly, 34.

After culinary school and a stint as a sous-chef for an Emeril Lagasse TV show, Anjunelly now works in a setting where bringing people together is perhaps especially important: She is a manager in the Members' Dining Room in Congress.

Last September, a letter she wrote about Maxima was entered into the Congressional Record. One of the most popular dishes she's made over the

years was Maxima's rice and peas, she wrote: "I guess the love and the heritage comes through."

'I WANTED TO MAKE SURE IT NEVER HAPPENED AGAIN'

Alexandra Wald wanted to understand. She soaked up books about the forces and failures that led to Sept. 11. She took four years of Arabic in college, got a master's degree in international relations and aspired to work in intelligence.

"Being as affected as I was by the geopolitical landscape and my dad being killed on 9/11," she says, "I wanted to make sure it never happened again."

It was her first day of high school when her father, stockbroker Victor Wald, was killed at the World Trade Center.

His daughter, who goes by Alex, was already interested in world events. But 9/11 made her want "to be that person to decipher that information, to protect the homeland."

Now 28, she works on a cybersecurity project for a contractor for the federal General Services Administration in Washington.

Studying for her career—with help from the Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund, set up for the children of 9/11 victims—also meant dealing with the frustration of contemplating missed opportunities to disrupt the terror plot.

When the anger stirred, she'd think of some advice her father gave her a few weeks

before the attacks.

"You can't look back with regret," he told her. And "never say, 'What if?'"

'ONCE IT'S ON MY SKIN, I HAVE TO TALK ABOUT IT'

It's all right to ask Ryan McGowan about the "IX.XI" tattooed on the back of her neck. It's 9/11 in Roman numerals.

"Once it's on my skin," she says, "I have to talk about it."

Ryan was 5, sister Casey 4, when their mother, investment executive Stacey Sennas McGowan, was killed at the trade center.

As a preteen, Ryan partly played the role of parent, helping her sister pick outfits for school and making dinner when their father, Tom, had to work. She came to think of her mother as "an amazing guardian angel."

Now 20, Ryan is a junior majoring in marketing at Boston College, where 19-year-old Casey is a sophomore in communications.

Often, Ryan makes her way through the campus to a labyrinth inscribed with her mom's name and those of 21 fellow BC graduates killed in 9/11. It's a place she feels close to her mother, whose remains were never identified and buried.

"I can just sit there and reflect," she says. "I don't have that anywhere else."

'I WANTED TO PLAY IN HONOR OF MY DAD'

Ronald Milam Jr. doesn't al-

This photo provided by Ryan McGowan shows her tattoo with 9/11 in Roman numerals on the back of her neck in Boston on Thursday Sept. 1, 2016. Ryan was 5 when her mother, investment executive Stacey Sennas McGowan, was killed during the attacks on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. She and her younger sister both attend Boston College where Ryan says she often finds comfort at a campus labyrinth inscribed with her mom's name and those of 21 fellow BC graduates killed in the attacks.

ways tell his football and basketball teammates that there's a reason he wears the number 33. It's for his father, Army Maj. Ronald Milam, who was 33 when he was killed at the Pentagon on 9/11.

Ronald Jr. never met his father. His mother, then-Air Force Capt. Jacqueline Milam, was pregnant with him on 9/11. She safely escaped from the Pentagon.

Ronald Jr., now a 14-year-old high school freshman in San Antonio, is one of the more than 100 Sept. 11 victims' children who were born after the attacks.

He has his dad's features and unflappable personality. And his jersey number was a connection he could make with his father, a college player himself.

"I wanted to play in honor of my dad," he says. "So I picked that."

'I RECOGNIZED HARDSHIP IN OTHER PEOPLE'S LIFE'

Sometimes, after refugees told her their stories of conflict and loss, Sonia Shah would let them know that she had one, too.

Explaining that her father died in 9/11 opened "a bonding moment," says the Baylor University social work student, who spent the summer volunteering with refugee aid organizations in Greece.

Her father, Jayesh "Jay" Shah, was killed at ground zero, where he was a financial trading technology executive. Sonia was 7.

His death fueled Sonia's impulse to try to help where others turn away.

"Because I had faced loss at such a young age and in such a different way than many other people, I recognized hardship in other people's life a lot more easily," says the 22-year-old senior, who took a year off from college for religious study. She says that without her faith, she "wouldn't be as whole and as healed."

World

Obama, Duterte meet despite PH leader's crude language

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP)—

President Barack Obama and Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte met informally on Wednesday in a holding room before attending a gala dinner at a regional summit, Philippine officials said.

The brief meeting took a little sting out of the soured relations caused by Duterte's intemperate language in referring to Obama earlier this week. That had caused Obama to cancel a formal meeting scheduled for Tuesday.

There was no immediate confirmation from the White

House.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay told The Associated Press that the leaders had met.

"They met at the holding room and they were the last persons to leave the holding room. I can't say how long they met. It all springs from the fact the relationship between the Philippines and the United States is firm, very strong. The basis for this relationship is historical and both leaders realize this.

And I'm very happy that it happened."

Aleppo bombed as US and Russia plan Syria talks

BEIRUT (AP)—An airstrike near the site of a suspected gas attack in Syria killed at least 10 civilians Wednesday, as U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov agreed to meet this week for extended discussions on ending the 5-year-old civil war.

Russia, a key ally of Syrian President Bashar Assad, has been conducting airstrikes to bolster his forces for nearly a year. The United States supports rebels fighting to overthrow Assad and has called on him to step down.

U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin failed to negotiate a settlement on the sidelines of the G-20 conference in China on Monday. Obama acknowledged "gaps of trust" between the rival powers following months of negotiations between their top diplomats.

The Russian Foreign Min-

istry said Lavrov and Kerry would meet Thursday and Friday in Geneva to work out the remaining details of a possible deal, following a phone call between the two. But U.S. officials indicated the earliest the talks could happen is Friday.

U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter said in London that Kerry would not be making another attempt with Lavrov if there were no prospects for success, but he added: "We're a long way from getting there."

Moscow warned that Turkey's incursion into northern Syria was complicating peace efforts, underscoring that the operation has not been sanctioned by the U.N. Security Council or the Syrian government. Turkey's actions "could further complicate the military and political situation in Syria, which is dire as it is" and jeopardize international efforts to reach a peace deal, it added.

Ash Carter: Russia sowing seeds of global instability

OXFORD, England (AP)—U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter accused Russia on Wednesday of sowing seeds of global instability and questioned whether Moscow genuinely wants a viable cease-fire in Syria.

In a hard-hitting speech at Oxford University, Carter emphasized deep skepticism about Russian intentions in Syria, even as U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry weighed more talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Geneva. Their discussions last weekend, on the sidelines of an economic summit in China, failed to produce a nationwide cease-fire in Syria or a U.S.-Russian military cooperation agreement.

Russia is a firm supporter of

Obama and Duterte are in the Laotian capital along with other regional leaders for the summit. All of them made their way through the holding room before heading to the banquet hall.

On Monday, hours before arriving in Laos, Duterte told Philippine reporters he wouldn't accept questions



Duterte

from Obama about extrajudicial killings that have occurred during his crackdown on suspected drug dealers and users. More than 2,000 people have been killed in the crackdown since he took

office on June 30.

"I do not have any master except the Filipino people, nobody but nobody. You must be

respectful. Do not just throw questions. Putang ina, I will swear at you in that forum," Duterte said, using the Tagalog phrase for "son of a bitch."

On Tuesday, Duterte expressed regret over the remarks, but the damage was done.

A Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman, Charles Joe, also said Obama



Obama

and Duterte met in the holding room. He said it was a mutually agreed meeting, but that he had no details of what was discussed.

Obama and Duterte entered the dinner venue separately, and were seated far apart and did not interact with each other during the dinner that lasted an hour and 20 minutes.

In Loving Memory of

†Juan Santos Dela Cruz

Lovingly Known as "Juan Doi"

January 26, 1952 – September 05, 2016

In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents: Ignacio A. Cruz
Antonia S. Tenorio
Joaquin P. Tenorio
Rita V. Tenorio
Siblings: Herman S. Cruz
Jesus V. Tenorio
Herminia T. Sablan
Ramon S. Tenorio
Linda T. Kumaichi

Stepchildren: Jennifer C. Tkel/Anthony C. Tenorio & Children
Michael C. and Lorraine B. Tkel & Children
Alexander C. Tkel/Jerrica C. Lizama & Children
Gwendolyn T. and Marty N. Taisacan & Children
Dolly Jean C. Tkel/Glenn M. DL Guerrero & Children
Eleanor S. Cruz & Family
Children of †Jesus V. Tenorio
Jose S. and Divine Dela Cruz & Family
Children of †Herminia T. Sablan
Edward S. and Lillian A. Tenorio & Family
Robert & Melly T. Kumaichi
Frank S. and Yvonne B. Tenorio & Family
Lillian S. Tenorio/Frank Palacios
Josephine DLR and Ramon Kapileo & Family
†Margarita J. Castro & Family
Joseph W. and Marilyn P. Jones & Family
Manuel J. Castro & Family
†Juan J. and Nancy S. Castro & Family
Celina C. and †Antonio L. Kaipat & Family
†Joaquin J. and Elisa M. Castro & Family
Bonifacio J. Castro & Family
Bernadita C. and Pedro DLG. Manalo & Family
Daniel J. and Dorothy Castro & Family
Benjamin J. and Vivian Q. Castro & Family
Rosita J. Castro & Family
Edward J. and Rosa O. Castro & Family

In-Laws:

He will also be missed by numerous Godchildren, Uncles, Cousins, Aunts, Nieces, Nephews, and Friends.

Mass of Intention for the repose of his soul is being celebrated each morning at 6:00 at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday, September 13, 2016. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora de la Paz Memorial Chapel to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:30am. Responso Service will be at 8:00am followed by recitation of the Holy Rosary at 8:30am.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am, followed by Interment Services at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery, where he will be laid to peaceful rest.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS.
THANK YOU – SI YU'US MA'ASE

JUANA JONES CASTRO-DELA CRUZ
Children and Families

Life & Style

Marilyn's 'Happy Birthday' gown going to auction in the fall

NEW YORK (AP)—The flesh-colored, skin-tight beaded gown Marilyn Monroe wore during her breathless rendition of "Happy Birthday" to President John F. Kennedy is going on the auction block this fall.

Julien's Auctions is offering the sequined stunner at a sale in Los Angeles on Nov. 17.

The auction house believes the gown could fetch \$2 million to \$3 million.

The sultry actress wore the barely-there dress at Kennedy's 45th birthday celebration at Madison Square Garden on May 19, 1962. Made of silk gauze and covered in thou-



In this May 19, 1962 photo provided by the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, actress Marilyn Monroe wears the iconic gown that she wore while singing "Happy Birthday" to President John F. Kennedy at Madison Square Garden, during a reception in New York City. Standing next to Monroe is Steve Smith, President Kennedy's brother-in-law.

sands of rhinestone beads and sequins, the Jean Louis dress was so form-fitting that Monroe had to be sewn into it.

lywood, but political and historical," said Julien's president Darren Julien.

The dress was first purchased 17 years ago at Christie's auction by the late financier Martin Zweig, who kept it in a climate-controlled display case at his Pierre Hotel penthouse in New York. It is being sold by his estate.

"She called it skin and

beads," said Julien of the gown. And because the dress "was sewn on Marilyn Monroe, Zweig had it professionally mounted on a mannequin. It's never been off it, and is immaculately preserved."

The dress was last sold at auction in 1999 for \$1.26 million, the highest auction price for a Monroe dress to date.

Newly crowned Miss Japan proud of Indian roots

TOKYO (AP)—The newly crowned Miss World Japan is hardly a typical Japanese woman. Being half-Indian is only part of it.

Priyanka Yoshikawa, crowned Monday after outshining more than 6,900 other applicants, has a certificate in elephant training, teaches English to children, enjoys kickboxing and volunteers as a translator at

medical meetings.

The 22-year-old is preparing for the worldwide pageant in Washington, D.C., in November.

Being fitted for a couture gown for the event is part of the program, but fashion plays a small role in Yoshikawa's life.

And she doesn't want to fit



into any stereotype.

She told The Associated Press on Wednesday that being in a beauty contest is a way to achieve her ambitions: Go to Bollywood, while pursuing her goal of building a children's home in India.

A national debate was

sparked in largely homogeneous Japan last year when Ariana Miyamoto, a half-American of African descent, was chosen Miss Universe Japan, another international beauty contest. Miyamoto faced criticism that she doesn't look Japanese enough, even though she mostly grew up in Japan and speaks the language perfectly.

Jewelry taken from Drake tour bus found; suspect arrested

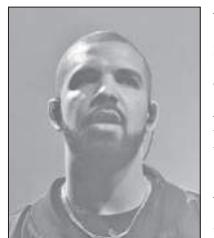
PHOENIX (AP)—"Hotline Bling" rapper Drake saw the safe return of millions of dollars' worth of actual bling stolen from his tour bus.

Phoenix police recovered a reported \$3 million worth of jewelry that was taken from a tour bus being used by the musician and DJ Future the

Prince while they were performing Tuesday.

Travion King, 21, was booked into Maricopa County Jail on a burglary charge.

Police say they identified King as



the suspect through surveillance footage at Talking Stick Resort Arena in downtown Phoenix.

They then learned that he was already in jail after being arrested for trespassing Wednesday

morning by campus police at Arizona State University in nearby Tempe.

The stolen jewelry was subsequently found.

Sgt. Vince Lewis says the suspect has done contract work in the past with local venues including the arena.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Lawsuit over Britney Spears' darkest days settled

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears' caretakers and her former confidante have settled a long-running lawsuit that centered on events before the pop star's public meltdown in 2008. Attorneys for Spears' father, who is her conservator, filed a notice in Los Angeles Superior Court on Friday announcing the settlement with Sam Lutfi, who was Spears' self-professed manager. Lutfi sued Spears and her parents in 2009, claiming her father Jamie hit him in the singer's mansion in early 2008. He also contended that a memoir by Spears' mother, Lynne, contained libel about him. The filing does not provide details on the settlement. A judge in November 2012 threw out Lutfi's claims, but an appeals court later restored the lawsuit. A trial had been scheduled for October. The settlement was first reported by celebrity website TMZ.

'Eat Pray Love' author announces lesbian relationship

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Eat Pray Love" author Elizabeth Gilbert, who split from her husband of nine years in July, says she's in love with her best friend, a woman named Rayya Elias, who was recently diagnosed with incurable pancreatic and liver cancer. Gilbert says in a lengthy Facebook post Wednesday the terminal diagnosis uncovered her true feelings for her longtime friend, and those feelings led to Gilbert's divorce from Jose Nunes, whom she described falling for at the end of her best-selling memoir. The posting was confirmed by Gilbert's publicist at Riverhead Books, Jynne Martin. Gilbert says she is making her relationship with Elias public because such "truth and transparency" make her life easier and more ethical. She asked her readers for their love.

Teen's friendship is strained after moving five miles away

DEAR ABBY: We used to live in a neighborhood where my 13-year-old daughter's best friend, "Mandy," still lives. They would play together and visit often and are well-suited in maturity and personality. Since we moved, Mandy has been to our new home (five miles away) a dozen times.

The last several times we have invited her to come over, she has been unable to, which I completely understand. People are busy. But recently, I have received no response at all from her mother. (Mandy was invited to my daughter's sleepover, and I was not told whether she was coming or not. She didn't.)

My daughter is heartbroken, but I feel I have done all I can do to offer a chance for them to get together. I have emailed, texted, Facebooked and called and left a message. I emailed the mother asking if I had offended her, or if her daughter no longer wanted to be friends anymore. Mandy's mom indicated there was no offense; they just have been super-busy. (Our daughters email each other several times a week, so I think they still would like to be friends.)

Clearly, I can't force the woman to be more responsive, but how should I handle this? And what should I tell my daughter, who misses her friend so much?

NOT THAT FAR AWAY

DEAR NOT THAT FAR: Not knowing Mandy's mother, I can't render an opinion about whether she's leveling with

you about her schedule. She MAY be super-busy, experiencing family or health problems or simply not want to drive her daughter 10 miles for a play date. As I see it, you have no choice other than to let her know Mandy is always welcome.

Tell your daughter what her mother told you—that she's extremely busy, and that you are sorry it has limited the time she gets to spend with her friend. At the same time, make a point of getting your daughter involved in new activities, so she can meet other girls and develop new interests so she'll have less time to dwell on missing Mandy.

P.S. Have you offered to take your daughter to Mandy's house so her mother won't have to do all the driving?

DEAR ABBY: My husband of seven years has always placed Wife No. 1 (I'm his second) on a pedestal. He often calls her to drive him to doctors' appointments, take care of his finances -- he even puts some of our bills in her name. He also talks to her about our marital problems and what we do in the bedroom. I feel like second string here.

I'm the mother of his children and I have always stood by him. I even made an extra effort to befriend the ex, only to find out she used it to her advantage to get more buried into our personal lives.

What can I do about this situation? I'm ready to call it quits, but I'm concerned that the two of them will make me out to be a selfish monster for wanting to come first or for

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



leaving. Please help me.

FED UP IN TEXAS

DEAR FED UP: I'll try. Draw the line and offer your husband the option of seeing a licensed marriage counselor. If he refuses—and he probably will—get some counseling without him. While you are there, describe your husband's continued involvement with his ex and discuss whether being unable to tolerate this "marriage of three" means you are "selfish." Frankly, I don't understand how you have tolerated it this long.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Alphabet soup

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	COMBO (PRINT)	(PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



JVA for YANO ENTERPRISES, INC.
dba: Kinpachi Restaurant

Restaurant Supervisor (2): Must be qualified in restaurant operations, customer service, menu planning, & reservation operations. Must be responsible for the supervision of staff as to dining areas cleanliness in appearance & outside grounds. Ensure any customers issues are addressed immediately and resolved in a manner which exceeds the customer's expectation. Also need to have basic Japanese oral skills. Must have an extensive knowledge of Japanese food products & be able to make orders & preparations.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including weekends and night time.

Applicants of positions listed above required to have a minimum of 2 - 4 year experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. Please no phone calls.

Vacancy Announcement

(1) Maintenance - Atleast high school graduate. A valid driver's license. Ability to use efficiently various power and hand tools. Knows how to follow oral written instructions and can communicate efficiently and fluently in both written and oral form.

(1) Carpenter/Finisher - Atleast high school graduate. Ability to build and install wooden and metal structures and fixtures. With valid driver's license.

Submit Applications to:
AYD Services, Inc.
Tel. # 235-7011

WANTED

Cement Laborer

- Cement handling experience preferred.
- Will train motivated individuals
- Wages \$8.25

Apply in person at
Hanson Micronesia Cement Inc.
Tel: 670 322-3333

EMPLOYMENT

Part-time help wanted \$10-\$15 per hour. Must have reliable transportation. Looking for hard working, dependable person, available to work some nights and weekends. Must have good computer skills and have access to a computer and scanner. Please email resume and contact information to: beneal2630@hotmail.com for consideration. We will train the right candidate!

2 – Accountant/ Bookkeeper, \$6.55/hr. Mail resume to Burger & Comer PC at P.O. Box 504053, Saipan, MP 96950.

Chinese Goods Center Inc.

Job Vacancy Announcement

(2) Dance Instructor

- With 3 years experience
- Flexible hours

Please mail resume to P.O. Box 502351, Saipan, MP 96950

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID ITB16-LT-171

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2016 TIME: 9:30 A.M.
"LEASE OF A PICK UP TRUCK 4X4 (4 FULL DOORS) FOR 12 MONTHS FOR THE OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR"

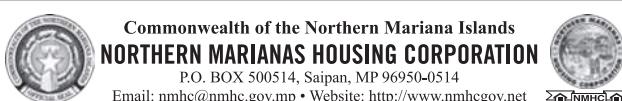
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ VICTOR B. HOCOG
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper. Call 235-NEWS



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: Accounting Clerk
Salary: PL 23/01 – \$16,651.51 to PL 23/05 – \$20,234.11 P/A
(Starting salary will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.)

Job Location: NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950
Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Thursday, September 29, 2016. **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than October 5, 2016, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhegov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) to limit hiring to qualified US workers, as restricted by CNMI law, and that equal opportunity be given to all qualified US worker applicants regardless of age, sex or sexual orientation, religion, marital status, political status, veterans status, disability or place of origin.

Opening Date: 08/26/16

Closing Date: 09/09/16*

POSITION TITLE:

STATISTICS SPECIALIST I

25/01 – 25/08

\$17,700.92 - \$24,889.35**

Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

POSITION TITLE:

STATISTICS SPECIALIST II

27/01 – 27/08

\$19,511.46 - \$27,437.44**

Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

*If not filled, the vacancy announcement will be continued and applications will be reviewed every two weeks thereafter until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day.

** The salary given will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 for more detailed information on position description. A completed application must be submitted together with the required documents for consideration until search is closed. A resume may be attached, but the application form must be filled out in full. MVA is an equal opportunity employer.

PLACE YOUR ADVERT HERE!

For opportunities contact us at 235-6397



JOB OPENING We deliver the F.U.N. in Hospitality

Flexibility • **U**niqueness • **N**obility

Main Kitchen

- Chef de cuisine
- Cook

Chinese

- Chef de partie
- Cook

Pastry

- Chef de partie
- Baker

Japanese

- Sous chef
- Chef de partie
- Cook

Food & Beverage

- Food and Beverage Assistant Manager
- Food and Beverage Supervisor

Finance

- Duty Free Supervisor
- Chinese Speaking a plus

Rooms Division

- Housekeeping Assistant Manager

Entertainment Division

- Entertainment Crew

Please email your resume to hr@mrisaipan.com or call (670) 237-4505



EOE/Drug Free Workplace

WANTED

NEWS REPORTER

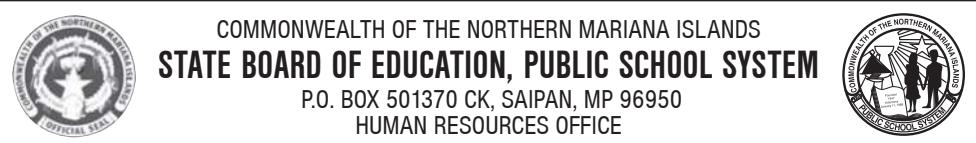
The *Saipan Tribune* is looking for a FULL-TIME news reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Above average writing skills and can work within deadlines;
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;
- Computer literate;
- With photography skills;
- Must have reliable means of transportation.

If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email your résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. ON-ISLAND HIRES PREFERRED.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.
Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE



PROMOTIONAL/TRANSFER OPPORTUNITY (PSS EMPLOYEES ONLY) EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

It is the policy of the State Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School Human Resources System shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity. Applications shall be evaluated regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability, or national origin.

Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for the Public School System.

POSITION/TITLE:

OPENING DATE: September 2, 2016

School Vice Principal I-II

CLOSING DATE: Until Filled

SALARY: PAY LEVEL/GRADE: UNGRADED STEPS: UNGRADED; \$40,000.00-\$50,000.00 PER ANNUM

BENEFITS: Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays).

LOCATION: Tinian Elementary School and Kagman High School

I. ESSENTIAL TASKS:

These are intended only as illustrations of the various types of work performed. The omission of specific duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related, or a logical assignment to the position.

- Assists the Principal in the overall operations of the school.
- Assists the Principal in the supervision and evaluation of the classroom teachers and support staff.
- Assists the Principal in the dissemination of pertinent information to staff, students and parents.
- Assists the Principal in the planning and implementation of students extra-curricular activities.
- Advises the Principal on matters related to budget, supplies, and other program needs.
- Assists the Principal in the implementation of approved curriculum programs.
- Helps implement student orientation and registration programs.
- Assists in the development of goals and objectives for the school.
- Provides direction to staff in establishing instructional goals and objectives.
- Contributes to the planning of the instructional program.
- Provides direction to staff in implementing instructional goals and objectives.
- Interacts with staff members to assist in their development.
- Conducts staff meetings to keep members informed.
- Assists in the evaluation of the instructional program.
- Assists in the evaluation process of staff members.
- Initiates improvements in needed areas.
- Involves the staff in setting priorities concerning expenditures for the needs of the school.
- Upgrades own professional knowledge and skills (through review of articles, workshops, training sessions, conferences, courses, etc.)
- Assists in the preparation and management of school budgets.
- Assists in the development and coordination of the school schedules.
- Assists in the implementation and coordination of the school's curricular programs.
- Defines and disseminates information pertaining to classification, promotion, retention, suspension, and expulsion policies, procedures, and criteria.
- Implements clearly-defined disciplinary procedures that have been communicated to parents, students, staff, and community.
- Communicates and carries out the policies established by the school, Board of Education, Public Law, as well as federal laws as they relate to schools.
- Delegates responsibility as authorized, and accepts the responsibility of the completion of the assigned tasks.
- Communicates the school program, goals and objectives, missions, and policies to the community.
- Assists in supervising and maintaining auxiliary services (i.e., transportation, cafeteria, maintenance, custodial).
- Uses community resources to supplement the school program.
- Promotes and maintains open communication among staff members. Promotes and maintains a positive student attitude.
- Respects the dignity and worth of students, staff, and parents.
- Complies with established lines of authority.
- Assists in completion of records (i.e., reports, inventories, requisitions, projections and forecasts, and other statistical information).
- Assists in the supervision of the requisition, inventory and distribution of supplies, textbooks, equipment, and materials necessary of the operation of the school.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

II. FORTY (40) HOUR WORKWEEK:

The normal work period shall be a seven (7) days work period with a maximum non-overtime of forty (40) hours.

The Public School System (PSS) operates on a 40 hour work week. Actual working hours will be determined on the basis of operational efficiency. School Principals, Supervisors or Program Managers will establish working schedules subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Education.

III. ESSENTIAL FUNCTION OF THE JOB:

The duties and responsibilities listed herein have excluded the functions of the position that are incidental to the performance of fundamental job duties. All duties and responsibilities listed herein are essential job functions and requirements and are subject to modification to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities. To perform this job successfully, the incumbent(s) will possess the skills, aptitudes, and abilities to perform each duty proficiently. Some positions may exclude individuals who pose a direct threat or significant risk to the health or safety of themselves or others. The qualification requirements listed in this document are the minimum levels of knowledge, abilities and skills required to perform this position.

IV. MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- EDUCATION:
 - School Vice Principal I:
 - Graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in education, related field or equivalent;
 - Master's degree in education administration or a related field;
 - School Vice Principal II:
 - Master's degree in education administration or a related field;
- WORK EXPERIENCE:
 - School Vice Principal I & II:
 - At least three (3) years appropriate teaching experience
- OTHER REQUIREMENTS:
 - School Vice Principal I & II:
 - Must take and pass PRAXIS I & the appropriate PRAXIS II exam starting July 31, 2007.
- CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
 - School Vice Principal II:
 - Must possess a valid administrator certification.

In Accordance with PSS Personnel Regulations Sub Part A: 60-30.3-702, Sub Part B: 60-30.3-735, Sub Part B: 60-30.3-740

V. KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES (KSAs)

- Thorough knowledge of prescribed School Board policies, procedures, rules and regulations;
- Ability to motivate others to reach their fullest potential;
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with school officials, students, parents, teachers, support staff, associates, external organizations/companies, federal and local agency representatives.
- Good interpersonal and communication skills. Communicate effectively both orally and in writing, including giving and receiving feedback.
- Awareness of and sensitivity to cultural issues and local community practices.
- Ability to work as part of a team. Strong staff collaboration is a standard at the PSS.
- Demonstrate the ability to lead and facilitate the instructional and academic performance of school assigned.
- Ability to lead effectively within a team environment.
- Ability to make sound decisions and organize and coordinate work efficiently.
- Must have strong interpersonal skills and be an effective communicator and motivator.
- Demonstrate the ability to use technology - computers for work processing, data management, and telecommunications.
- Knowledge of contemporary research and practice in school improvement, standards-based education and professional development.
- Demonstrates skill in delivering effective professional development.
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in English - written and oral.
- Awareness of and sensitivity to cultural and local community practices and norms.
- Excellent Office Automation Skills (Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook)
- Excellent Oral & Written Skills
- Excellent Record Keeping Skills

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN AND SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS TO THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT ISETA CT., CAPITOL HILL BUILDING # 1202, CNMI SAIPAN.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, ISLETA CT., CAPITOL HILL BUILDING #1202, P.O. BOX 501370CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, TEL. NOS. (670) 664-3824.

YOUR APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE ON OR BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE OF THE POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT.

After let call, Murray loses in quarters; Serena wins

NEW YORK (AP)—Andy Murray lost his way, seven consecutive games and, eventually, his riveting five-set U.S. Open quarterfinal against Kei Nishikori after a loud noise from a malfunctioning sound system interrupted a key point, resulting in a do-over.

Whether or not the gong-like sound, and chair umpire Marija Cicak's let ruling, was the reason that Nishikori wound up coming back to win 1-6, 6-4, 4-6, 6-1, 7-5 on Wednesday, it surely will be what's most remembered about the back-and-forth, 4-hour match.

After all, Murray's extended discussions with Cicak and another official about the unusual episode came during a stretch in which he dropped 12 of 14 points.

He went from a lead of two sets to one, plus a break point at 1-all, to ceding the fourth set and trailing 2-0 in the fifth.

"I could have won the match for sure," said Murray, the No. 2 seed and 2012 champion at Flushing Meadows.

The No. 6 seed Nishikori reached a Grand Slam semifinal for the first time since he was the U.S. Open runner-up two years ago. He faces No. 3 seed Stan Wawrinka, who ended the resurgent run of 2009 champion Juan Martin del Potro 7-6 (5), 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 in a quarterfinal that finished past 1 a.m. on Thursday. The other men's semifinal Friday is No. 1 Novak Djokovic against No. 10 Gael Monfils.

The last game of two-time



AP
Andy Murray of the United Kingdom races to return a shot to Kei Nishikori of Japan during the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open tennis tournament, Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016, in New York.

in straight sets in the semifinals at Rio de Janeiro.

This time, Nishikori came through, helped by a series of effective drop shots and an ability to keep his nerve over the closing three games.

"It was too exciting on the court, but I tried to stay calm," he said. "It was really tough to stay calm ... There were many ups and downs."

In the women's quarterfinals, Serena Williams was broken for the first time in the tournament, and lost a set for the first time, too, but eventually got past No. 5 Simona Halep 6-2, 4-6, 6-3. A year ago in the U.S. Open semifinals, Williams' bid for a calendar-year Grand Slam ended with a loss to unseeded Roberta Vinci of Italy.

On Thursday, Williams faces 10th-seeded Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic, who reached the first major semifinal of her career by eliminating the 18-year-old Konjuh 6-2, 6-2. The other women's semifinal is No. 2 Angelique Kerber vs. two-time runner-up Caroline Wozniacki.

At 3-all in the second set of Murray vs. Nishikori, rain interrupted play for the second time in the match. The retractable roof atop Ashe was shut during the second, longer shower, and the break of about 20 minutes gave Nishikori's coach, 1989 French Open champion Michael Chang, a chance to run through the concourse to get down to the locker room and consult with his player.

"That helped me a lot to regroup the tactics," Nishikori said. "I (had) to change something to win the match."

He also spoke to a tournament supervisor about it, pleading his case and saying, "That's not fair."

That same type of noise came from the speakers again at 4-1 in the fourth set. It also had happened during a women's match Monday night between Ana Konjuh and Agnieszka Radwanska.

The U.S. Tennis Association said Wednesday that a "digital audio sound processor" was at fault and would be replaced before the night session.

Despite all the fuss, Murray went ahead 5-4 in the fifth. But he wouldn't take another game. At 5-all, 30-all, Murray double-faulted to set up break point, and Nishikori converted by reaching for a stretch volley winner.

Murray slammed his racket against the net and cursed. Soon enough, his career-best run of reaching seven straight tournament finals was done.

"I would have loved to have gone further," Murray said, "but it wasn't to be today."

He had won 26 of his previous 27 matches, including a second Wimbledon championship and a second Olympic gold medal, beating Nishikori

wiped away tears.

Earlier, Murray acknowledged a brief dip in play after the argument over the let but preferred to focus on other reasons for his exit.

"I broke serve enough

times," Murray said. "I just didn't hold serve enough. That was the difference."

Perhaps.

But Murray complained about the ruling right away, gave away the next

three points to lose the game, then brought it up again with Cicak at the ensuing changeover, saying something similar had happened earlier and play had continued.

"Exactly the same thing," Murray exclaimed. "And I told you."

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Murray slammed his racket against the net and cursed. Soon enough, his career-best run of reaching seven straight tournament finals was done.

"I would have loved to have gone further," Murray said, "but it wasn't to be today."

He had won 26 of his previous 27 matches, including a second Wimbledon championship and a second Olympic gold medal, beating Nishikori

Woods hopes to return next month



CARMEL, Ind. (AP)—Out

er, he announced he had another operation on his back. Then, Woods had a third back surgery in October.

He missed all four majors for the first time in his career.

Jack Nicklaus tweeted to Woods that "it's great to see you back to see you back and in good health. You've done so much for the game and it's better with you playing."

The Safeway Open is the opening event of the wrap-around PGA Tour season held at Silverado. Woods also said he intends to play in the Turkish Airlines Open the first weekend in November and his Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas the first week of December, where he would be eligible for the 18-man field as the tournament host.

He also said he would take part in his Tiger Woods Invitational, a charity event for his foundation, Oct. 10-11 on the Monterey Peninsula.

"It was difficult missing tournaments that are impor-

tant to me, but this time I was smart about my recovery and didn't rush it," Woods said.

The announcement was a swift departure from the few public appearances this year in which Woods has said he planned to return but did not have a timetable.

Now he does.

"He needs to get back out here," U.S. Open champion Dustin Johnson said. "The tour needs him, and I want to see him playing well again. He's not going to come back unless he's ready, so I feel like he'll play well. Winning? I don't see it right away. But he's on a different level than anyone else. He'll be prepared."

Rory McIlroy said he knew Woods was close based on a conversation with Woods' agent at the British Open this year. He said the PGA Tour sent out an alert to players on their mobile phones, which McIlroy checked at the end of his pro-am round at the BMW Championship.

"I'm sort of glad I'm not

there that week. ... It's going to be a bit of a circus," McIlroy said. "But it's good to see him back and healthy, and it will be exciting to see him back on the course again."

Woods won his 79th PGA Tour title in 2013 at the Bridgestone Invitational, leaving him three short of the record held by Sam Snead. The last of his 14 majors was in the 2008 U.S. Open, right before reconstructive surgery on his left knee. He hasn't seriously contended in a major since 2013. Woods had his first back surgery right before the 2014 Masters.

"I'm looking forward to seeing him play again, seeing what the state of his game is," world No. 1 Jason Day said. "I think he's done it the right way by waiting and not coming back too soon. There's been a couple of times where I feel like he may have come back too soon and kind of injured himself a little bit more and that's what's kept him out of the game so long."

Red Sox beat Padres to take over AL East lead

 SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Boston Red Sox are leaving the country and taking something with them: sole possession of first place in the AL East.

Travis Shaw, Hanley Ramirez and Brock Holt homered and David Price threw seven solid innings to lead Boston past the San Diego Padres 7-2 on Wednesday night.

After securing the series win at San Diego, the Red Sox open a three-game series at Toronto on Friday.

"That's what makes it fun to play this time the year," Price said. "You are playing the teams right in front of you or right behind you. To be in this position is huge. It's a testament to the work we have done all year."

The Red Sox took a one-game lead over the Toronto Blue Jays, who lost 2-0 to the New York Yankees. Boston, which completed interleague play with a 14-6 record, will play only AL East teams in the final 23 games.

Shaw, inserted into the lineup for a slumping Yoan Moncada, hit his 16th homer in the second inning, a two-run shot, and added an RBI single in the fourth.

"He obviously made an impact," Red Sox manager John Farrell said. "He squared some balls up."

Nationals 5, Braves 4

In Washington, Nationals ace Stephen Strasburg felt a pinch in the back of his elbow and was forced to make an early exit in his first start since returning from the disabled list, and NL East-leading Washington went on to defeat Atlanta 5-4 in 11 innings Wednesday night.

The Nationals said Strasburg would get an MRI and

didn't elaborate on the severity of his injury. Strasburg winced on the mound after throwing a pitch in the third inning, and manager Dusty Baker said Strasburg had felt a pinch.

Dodgers 3, Diamondbacks 1

In Los Angeles, Yasiel Puig homered and drove in another run, and Brock Stewart became the fourth consecutive rookie pitcher to win his start, helping the Dodgers beat Arizona to win their fifth straight and complete a three-game sweep.

The NL West leaders increased their lead to a season-high five games over San Francisco.

Indians 6, Astros 5

In Cleveland, Carlos Carrasco overcame a home run and an apparent bug in his eye to pitch into the eighth inning, and Cleveland beat Houston.

The game-time temperature was 87 degrees, causing swarms of midges to journey from Lake Erie to the muggy ballpark.

Carrasco (11-7) allowed Colby Rasmus' two-run homer in the fourth, one batter after the game was stopped briefly when one of the bugs appeared to get in his eye.

Brewers 2, Cubs 1

In Milwaukee, Jonathan Villar hit two home runs and Keon Broxton robbed Anthony Rizzo of a homer in the ninth inning to help Milwaukee beat Chicago.

Milwaukee got its first hit when Villar homered leading off the fourth. Villar homered again off Joe Smith (1-1), the sixth Chicago pitcher, leading off the eighth.

Yankees 2, Blue Jays 0

In New York, Bryan Mitchell



AP
Boston Red Sox left fielder Chris Young, left, celebrates with center fielder Jackie Bradley Jr., center, and right fielder Mookie Betts after Red Sox defeated the San Diego Padres 7-2 in a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016, in San Diego.

gled and stole second before scoring on Sano's double off Joakim Soria (4-8).

Athletics 4, Angels 1

In Oakland, Jharel Cotton won in his major league debut, leading Oakland past Los Angeles.

The 24-year-old Cotton became the fourth pitcher in big league history born in the Virgin Islands. He allowed one run on two hits, struck out three and walked two in 6 1/3 innings. Cotton came to the A's from the Dodgers at the trade deadline in a deal that sent Josh Reddick to Los Angeles.

Mariners 8, Rangers 3

In Seattle, Adam Lind hit the fourth grand slam of his career as part of Seattle's five-run first inning, added a solo home run in his next at-bat and led the Mariners past Texas.

Lind's 19th and 20th homers helped Seattle jump to an 8-0 lead and kept the Mariners on the fringe of the AL wild-card race, five games behind Baltimore.

Rockies 6, Giants 5

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Romo heads list of declining NFL players



Tony Romo followed the best season of his career in 2014 with one injury after another.

The question no longer is whether Romo can duplicate the success he had just two years ago when he led the Dallas Cowboys to 12 wins and the NFC East title. Rather, people wonder if can stay healthy to play at all.

Romo missed 12 games in 2015 after he broke his left collarbone twice. He begins this year on the sideline after suffering a back injury in the preseason.

The four-time Pro Bowl quarterback is clearly on the decline.

Here are other players who could trend downward in 2016:

Jason Peters, LT, Eagles: He's an eight-time Pro Bowl pick and two-time All-Pro who has missed only two games in the past three seasons. But the 34-year-old Peters isn't the dominant blocker he used to be. He has 18 penalties and 12 sacks allowed over the last two seasons.

Chris Johnson, RB, Cardinals: Johnson was on his way to his seventh 1,000-yard season in eight years before getting hurt last season. He ran for 814 yards in 11 games. His injury gave David Johnson an opportunity to play more and



he was dynamic. The Cardinals are in good hands with either Johnson, but expect David to get the ball more than Chris.

Demaryius Thomas, WR, Broncos: Thomas had 105 catches for 1,304 yards and six TDs in 2015 despite Peyton Manning's rapid decline. But the Broncos are a far more run-oriented offense under Gary Kubiak, who can emphasize his system in Year 2 now that Manning is gone and Trevor Siemian is the quarterback. Thomas will get the ball, but he's not going to catch triple-digit passes in this offense.

Mario Williams, DE, Dolphins: After racking up 38 sacks between 2012-14, Williams had just five sacks in

909 snaps last season. He was released by the Bills following a disappointing year playing linebacker in Rex Ryan's 3-4 system. Miami is banking on Williams being more comfortable in the 4-3, but Williams' best days could be in the past.

Arian Foster, RB, Dolphins: Foster missed 23 games for the Texans over the past three seasons due to back, groin and Achilles tendon injuries. He's a 30-year-old running back who took a lot of hits and has suffered a lot of injuries. That adds up to less production.

Meanwhile, the San Francisco 49ers have had to remake their inexperienced receiving group on the fly this summer.

After losing projected contributors Bruce Ellington and Eric Rogers to season-ending injuries during training camp, the Niners made two late deals to acquire Jeremy Kerley and Rod Streater to bring in some needed experience to go along with Torrey Smith.

Before those trades, Smith was the only receiver on the 49ers roster who had more than 30 catches in a single season. With coach Chip Kelly often using at least three receivers at a time and running an up-tempo offense that requires a rotation at the position, it was paramount to add some help before the start of the season next Monday against the Los Angeles Rams.

In this Aug. 25, 2016, file photo, Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo looks to hand off the ball during the first half of a preseason NFL football game against the Seattle Seahawks in Seattle.

"These guys going to have to play—like right away," Smith said Wednesday. "They have their work cut out for them this week, but we know they have the talent to get it done."

They join a group that also includes starter Quinton Patton and rookie Aaron Burbridge. But neither of those players has had as much production in their careers as Kerley and Streater have.

Kerley was acquired from Detroit to play the slot position after Ellington was placed on season-ending injured reserve with a hamstring injury.

Kerley has had success in that role in the past during his time with the New York Jets. He caught a career-high 56 passes for 827 yards in 2012 and had 43 catches the following year before his production started to taper off.

"We lost Bruce and we kind of replaced him with a guy that has similar traits," offensive coordinator Curtis Modkins said. "I think Jeremy's going to be very productive for us. I'm happy he's here."

Streater also has not put up big numbers in recent years,

but the Niners hope he can revive his career and fill the void created on the outside when Rogers went down with a knee injury. The Niners had big plans for Rogers this season after signing him out of the CFL but had to adjust when he got hurt in a non-contact special teams drill early in camp.

Streater, a former undrafted free agent, caught 60 passes for 888 yards in his second NFL season with the Oakland Raiders in 2013. He played just three games the following year before breaking his foot and was relegated to inactive duty most of last season when he played just one game and caught only one pass.

"I like what Rod brings," Modkins said. "One, he has some length. He can run. He's had some production in this league and you know, when we lost Eric, we felt like Eric

would kind of give us some of that downfield, a bigger guy that can move. I think Streater kind of replaces that."

WPS

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15-6, will have a bye on Tuesday and will return to action on Wednesday as it collides against SCS.

The middle school elimination round is set to conclude on Nov. 8, while the playoffs will be held from Nov. 10 to 18. The high school division of the league will start on Nov. 15.

Tribune Sports Scores

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
Boston	78	61	.561	—
Toronto	77	62	.554	1
Baltimore	76	63	.547	2
New York	73	65	.529	4½
Tampa Bay	59	79	.428	18½

Central Division

Cleveland	80	58	.580	—
Detroit	75	64	.540	5½
Kansas City	72	67	.518	8½
Chicago	67	72	.482	13½
Minnesota	52	88	.371	29

West Division

Texas	83	57	.593	—
Houston	74	65	.532	8½
Seattle	71	68	.511	11½
Los Angeles	62	77	.446	20½
Oakland	60	79	.432	22½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division				
Washington	82	57	.590	—
New York	74	66	.529	8½
Miami	69	71	.493	13½
Philadelphia	62	77	.446	20
Atlanta	54	86	.386	28½

Central Division

Chicago	89	50	.640	—
St. Louis	73	65	.529	15½
Pittsburgh	68	69	.496	20
Milwaukee	62	77	.446	27
Cincinnati	57	81	.413	31½

West Division

Los Angeles	79	60	.568	—
San Francisco	74	65	.532	5
Colorado	67	72	.482	12
Arizona	58	81	.417	21
San Diego	57	82	.410	22

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AFC

From Page 36

Congress, especially an elective Congress. The Congress was organized according to the existing NMIFA statutes," AFC's Media and Communication Department stated in a message sent to *Saipan Tribune* last Wednesday.

"The AFC representative (Kattel) also visited the NMIFA office and met the staff. The office is fit for purpose and the staff members are

working hard to lay grounds for further football development in Northern Mariana Islands," the department added.

Pattel also made the rounds at the Oleai Sports Complex Field and other school pitches that the CNMI uses for its games before attending the Congress to witness the election of NMIFA officials.

Jerry Tan was voted president anew of NMIFA. Others elected were vice president Vickie Izuka of MP United Football Club and

NMIFA Executive Committee members Wesley Bogdan, Patty Coleman, and Norman Del Rosario.

Meanwhile, games in the AFC U14 Regional (East) Festival of Football 2016 will resume today at the Xianghe National Football Training Center in Beijing, China after the 10 participating teams took a break yesterday.

The CNMI Boys U14 National Team is among the squads seeing action in the event and will play its pen-

ultimate game in the festival at 4:30pm (6:30pm) against South Korea. Then tomorrow, the Jershwin Angeles-coached squad will face Mongolia at 9am to conclude its Group B matches.

Angeles, in a message to *Saipan Tribune*, said the Teen Ayuyus had a light one-hour training yesterday and some of the injured players are recovering well.

John Michael Rojas' ankle showed improvement while Kirt Andon and Joshua

Waldo were able to join the training yesterday. Hopefully, everybody's healthy for our last and another important game (against Mongolia). By the way, Guam beat Mongolia, 3-1, giving us more hope and confidence when we face the latter tomorrow," Angeles said.

The Teen Ayuyus hold a 0-1-1 win-draw-loss record in the festival, forcing Guam to a 2-2 draw last Monday before losing to Japan last Tuesday, 0-17.

YOUTH

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week. The boys U17 games will be played in two 40-minute halves.

In the girls U15 division, matches will take place at the San Antonio Elementary School Field with Shirley's FC battling MP United in the curtain-raiser at 1:30pm and Tan Holdings facing Matansa in the second tiff at 3pm. Kanoa also has a team in the division and will have its season opener next Saturday when it duels Tan Holdings at 1:30pm. Players in the girls U15 division will see action in two 35-minute halves.

The boys U14 age group

has the same game duration as the girls U15's and will feature six teams. In the first game at 1:30pm, Shirley's FC will square off against Matansa, while in the second match at 3pm, Tan Holdings will challenge Kanoa. Paire and MP United will close out the opening week as they collide in the 4:30pm tiff. All games are scheduled at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Over at the Hopwood Junior High School Field, Paire FC and Tan Holdings will open the hostilities in the co-ed U12A division when they cross path, beginning at 12:30pm at Pitch A. At Pitch B at the same time, MP United 1 will meet Kanoa. MP United 2 will meet Kanoa. MP United 2 got a bye in Week

1 and will start its campaign next Saturday against Paire. Games in the boys U12A division will be played in two 30-minute halves.

Meanwhile, three other divisions will have their separate competitions.

In the co-ed U12B (non-competitive), eight teams are entered and all four games in the opening week will be played at the Hopwood pitch, starting at 1:50pm. The pairings in Week 1 are Shirley's vs MP United; Tan Holdings vs Matansa; Paire vs Kanoa 2; and Kanoa 1 vs Southern United.

Nine teams will also play in the co-ed U8 division with MP United fielding three teams to join Shirley's, Kanoa, Tan Holdings, Paire, Matansa, and Southern United. The pair-

ings in tomorrow's opening week are as follows: Shirley's vs Southern United; Kanoa vs Matansa; MP United 1 vs Paire; and MP United 2 vs Tan Holdings. Games will take place, too at the Hopwood pitch at 4pm.

In related news, over 40 coaches and club officials attended NMIFA's coaching workshop at the Koblerville Elementary School.

NMIFA technical director and CNMI Men's National coach Kiyoshi Sekiguchi led the seminar, which aimed at preparing coaches for this year's fall league. The workshop covered theoretical pointers and goalkeeping

Pacific Ocean Cup 6

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



MP United Football Club's Jeremiah Hernandez smiles after being named one of the MVPs in the Pacific Ocean Cup 6 held last weekend at the Numazu Seibu Grounds in Numazu, Japan.



Participating teams in the Pacific Ocean Cup 6 line up while waiting for the start of the awards ceremony.



MP United FC players line up while waiting for the start of their match against Dream FC.



MP United FC's Richard Steele receives his certificate of participation from Vivid Blue founder and coach Sachiko Tahara.



Players and coaches of tournament host Vivid Blue take a breather before returning to the pitch.



MP United FC coach Gene Weaver huddles with his players during the halftime break of their game against Pure FC.



MP United FC and Susono Nishi FC players listen to the instructions of the referee before kicking off their match.



MP United FC players perform stretching drills while coach Gene Weaver looks on.



After let call,
Murray loses
in quarters;
Serena wins

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Red Sox beat
Padres to
take over AL
East lead

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

WPS wins opener; GCA recovers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Whispering Palms School prevailed in its season debut, while Grace Christian Academy 1 and 2 quickly bounced back from early losses in the middle school division of the 2016-2017 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League.

 WPS hosted GCA 2 last Tuesday and swept the three-set game. Whispering Palms coasted to a 25-6 victory in the first set and secured the opener with a tough 25-23 win in the second. The third set, which was still played to give the opposing teams more time to hone their volleyball skills, also went to Whispering Palms, 15-7.

After facing GCA 2, Whispering Palms dueled GCA 1 and this time the Eagles won. GCA 1 got the victory right after two sets, 25-7, 25-23. Whispering Palms avoided being shut down in its own turf after taking the third set, 15-11.

With GCA 1 beating Whispering Palms, it managed to recover from its opening loss

to Agape Christian School last Tuesday. Agape pulled off a 25-21, 23-25, 15-12 victory over the Eagles during their game at the GCA court in Navy Hill. Agape went on to gain its second straight win after slipping past Saipan International School 2 yesterday at the former's court in Middle Road. The scores in the Agape-SIS 2 tiff were unavailable, but according to the former's officials, the Geckos topped the first set before the Torchbearers won the last two to remain undefeated in the 11-team field.

In other results, GCA 2 regrouped quickly after bowing to WPS last Tuesday as the Eagles dowed Mt. Carmel School 2 at the MCS Gymnasium yesterday.

Two more games were played yesterday with defend-

ing champion SIS 1 scheduled to duel Seventh Day Adventist at the Geckos court in As Lito and Marianas Baptist Academy slated to host Saipan Community School. Results of both matches were unavailable at press time.

The league's middle school competition will have a double-round robin format in the regular season and beginning on Tuesday, games will also be played every Wednesday.

SIS 2 will play SCS on Tuesday at the SIS court, while the four other pairings are GCA 1 vs MBA at GCA; GCA 2 vs SDA at SDA; MCS 1 vs Agape at MCS; and MC2 vs WPS at WPS. SIS 1, which won last season's championship after outclassing GCA in the finals, 25-18, 13-25,

See WPS on Page 34



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Whispering Palms School's Max Church bumps the ball during the third set of their game against Grace Christian Academy 1 in the middle school division of the COPSSA league yesterday at the WPS court in Navy Hill.

AFC observes NMIFA Ordinary Congress

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

An Asian Football Confederation official was in town last month to observe Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's 8th Ordinary Congress held at the Azucena Room of the Fiesta Resort and

Spa Saipan.

Puushottam Kattel, an International Relations Officer under AFC's Member Association and International Relations Department, watched the two-hour proceeding, which featured reports on NMIFA's

accomplishments and development programs last year and plans for the 2016-2017 season and had the national federation's election of new officers as the highlight.

"This was the first time the AFC sent an observer

to the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Congress. This is a common practice with all AFC member associations and the objective is to ensure that all the member associations follow their statutory provisions during the

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The CNMI Boys U14 National Team players and official pose for a photo yesterday in front of the Xianghe National Football Training Center in Beijing, China—the host of the AFC U14 Regional (East) Festival of Football 2016.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Youth fall league opens tomorrow



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
NMIFA technical director Kiyoshi Sekiguchi explains passing and control positions during a coaching workshop for the fall season of the youth league last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School cafeteria.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Nine games in the competitive division will be played in the opening of the 2016 NMIFA Youth Fall League this Saturday at four different fields. Complex for the boys U17 division, Matansa Football Club will have its season debut in the 9am against Paire FC, while at 10:40am, MP United FC will take on Tan Holdings FC. Kanoa FC completes the field and drew a bye in the opening



Over at the Oleai Sports

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